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ENGLISH SYMPATHY WITH FRANCE.

It seems to be the misfortune of Englishmen never to be thoroughly understood on the Continent. At the commencement of the war, opinion in Great Britain was almost wholly on the side of Germany. Why? Because Englishmen believed the Germans—the attacked party—to be in the right, and their opponents—the assailants—to be in the wrong; and we freely spoke out our opinions. So far the Germans were pleased; but that was not, in their opinion, enough: we should not merely have contented ourselves with thinking them right and saying so; we ought to have given effect to our thoughts, and have actively taken part in the quarrel—of course, on the side we thought right—that is, the German. And because we did not, Fatherland was sorely offended with us. Well, we could not help this, for most of us were of opinion that, if we joined in the fray, which did not immediately concern us, and which we had no part in causing, we should ourselves be doing wrong; and, moreover, we are no longer ambitious of mingling in every quarrel that arises in the world, or of being universal bottle-holders, whatever this nation may have been once in that way. And so we held aloof.

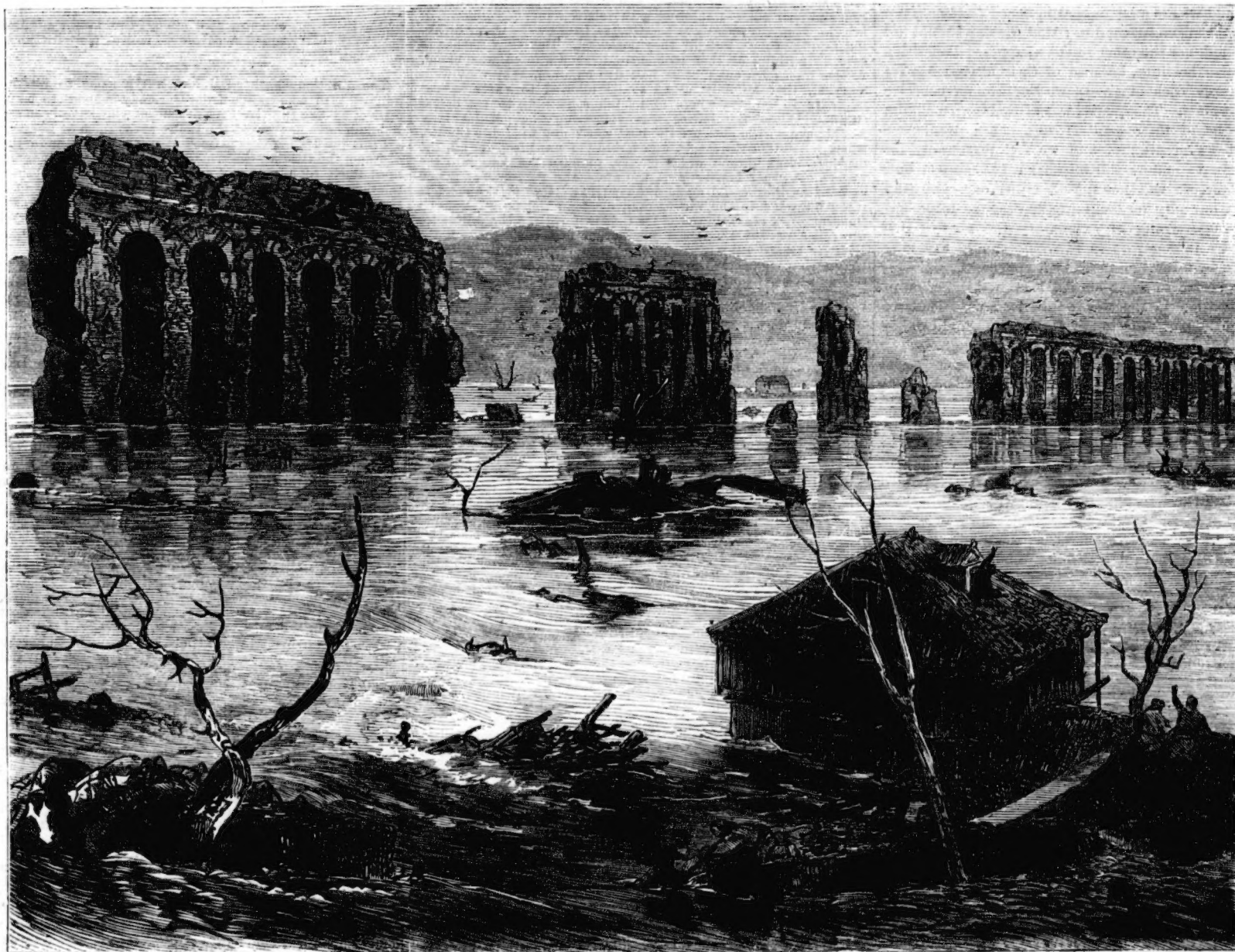
But things have changed: right has passed from one side to the other; and English opinion and sympathy have followed it. The Germans, from being engaged in a war to



A. J. OTWAY, ESQ., M.P.

resist an attempt at territorial spoliation, are now combating to secure territorial aggrandisement; while the French, from embarking in a crusade against their neighbours' soil, are fighting to defend their own. That makes a mighty difference in the relative position of parties, especially in the eyes of a people who, like us, deem wars waged for territorial acquisitions in no case justifiable. It is true that Englishmen did not always, and in all places, hold that opinion; but we hold it now; and our present opinions, not those of our forefathers, must govern our actions. Here we are again likely to be misunderstood. Because we now sympathise with them, we dare say the French will be offended if we abstain from taking an active part in their quarrel. Indeed, we do not seem to be quite understood by ourselves, or, at least, by some amongst us; for are there not men here in London who seem bent on dragging their country into participation in a gigantic war for little better than merely sentimental reasons?

And it is curious to note that men at the two extremes of political opinion—Conservatives and Radicals—are agreed in this, though for very different reasons. At the outset, Conservatism at once ranged itself on the side of France—mainly, we suspect, on two grounds: firstly, because it was supposed that Liberalism, and the Government as representing it, would take the part of Germany; and,



THE CAMPAGNA AT ROME DURING THE FLOODS.



secondly, from a secret sympathy with autocracy, as embodied in the Emperor Napoleon, and an occult dislike of free thought, which was believed to widely prevail in Germany. From their point of view, speaking in a partisan sense, perhaps the Conservatives were justified in this; at all events, they have the unwonted satisfaction of having popular sentiment with them now, though it is difficult to suppose that they can derive much gratification from the fact, considering the influences that have tended to produce the coincidence of opinion, and the further fact that, if they be consistent, they must still long for the restoration of the fallen empire in France; for from, and out of, that very fall originated the change of public feeling in England, and the apparent rapprochement of sentiment between Radicals and Tories. France Imperial, though the admiration of Conservatives, was the abomination of Radicals; but France Republican, though only nominally so, at once fired the imagination and enlisted the sympathies of English Radicals—of the extreme school, we mean; though how it can have done other than sadden the hearts of Conservatives we do not pretend to understand,—further than this, that we are glad to give them credit for participation in the genuine English characteristic of sympathising with the unfortunate manfully struggling with adversity. In that sentiment we are proud to claim a share, and to concede to all our countrymen the same, by whatever political designation they may call themselves.

It is none the less true, however, that Conservative championship of France originated in sympathy with Imperialism, irrespective of the right or the wrong of the original quarrel, and that Radical championship of the same side took its rise from the advent of Republicanism in France: very much too, we suspect, irrespective of the initiative justice of the business. It was enough for our extreme politicians that a Republic was warring against a Monarchy; they must needs be on the side of the Republic. If both Conservatives and Radicals are to be consistent, it is difficult to see how they can continue to agree; but we are not now concerned with nominal consistency, for we know that the most inconsistent men in the world are those who pride themselves upon always being technically consistent. What we wish to point out is that English public opinion in this matter of the Franco-German war has been essentially consistent throughout, and is now in perfect consonance with what it was at the beginning. We mean intelligent public opinion, not opinion that is captivated by a mere name and swayed by outward appearances only. There is no mystery whatever in the business. Principles governed the opinions of enlightened, thinking men in England at first; principles govern them still. We went with Right, and against Wrong, at the beginning; and we go with Right, and against Wrong, now. It is no fault of ours if Right and Wrong have changed sides. Public opinion in England has simply followed the change; it did not originate it, and remains essentially unchanged itself. That is the whole sum and substance of the matter; and we are anxious that neither Frenchmen nor Germans should misunderstand us: that the one should not expect active aid, nor the other resent a supposed disposition to accord active hostility, because of their altered relative positions towards each other—as we Englishmen conceive things, at all events. The quarrel was of their own making; and it must be of their own settling. As a people, we deeply regret its occurrence, and we feel profoundly for those who have to endure the miseries it has caused; but, also as a people, we will not permit either our sympathy with right or our pity for suffering to drag us into committing the huge wrong of extending the area of this unhappy war by taking part in it, whatever wild talk may be indulged in by a few indiscreet men among us.

And just observe to what absurd results this notion of active participation in the war would lead us. Had we intervened on the part of Germany at first, we should either have had to change sides when she became the aggressor, or have been ourselves participants in wrongdoing. Supposing we were to intervene on the part of France now, that our aid should enable her to turn the tables on her opponent, and she were to carry the war into Germany, France would once more be in the wrong, and we should have again to change sides, or be again participants in aggression. As we probably should not have been able to control Germany when success attended her arms in August last, so neither could we hope to be able to control France should victory crown her efforts in August next. Our only safe course, therefore, was, and is, the one we have pursued—impartial neutrality; and that course we must continue to follow.

A. J. OTWAY, ESQ., M.P.

ARTHUR JOHN OTWAY, who has recently resigned the office of Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, in consequence of differing with his colleagues "on an important point of policy," as he has informed the world—and a full explanation of which he will, no doubt, lay before Parliament on an early day after the Session opens—is the second surviving son of Admiral Sir Robert Walter Otway, G.C.B., the first Baronet, by Clementina, daughter of Admiral Holloway, of Wells, Somerset. Mr. Otway was born at Edinburgh, in 1822; and was educated in Germany, and at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, where he obtained a commission, without purchase, in the 51st Regiment of Infantry. He served in India and Australia, and retired from the Army in 1846. He then studied law, and was called to the Bar in 1850. In 1851 Mr. Otway married Henrietta, daughter of Sir James Lyngham, Bart., of Cottesbrooke Park, Northampton. He first entered Parliament in July, 1857, as member for Stafford, which he represented till July, 1857. After unsuccessfully contesting Chatham in 1859, and North Shields in 1861, Mr. Otway was returned for the Kent borough in 1865, and was again elected by the same constituency in 1868. The hon. gentleman is a Justice of the Peace for Middlesex, a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, and heir-presumptive of his brother, Sir George Graham Otway.

THE LATE FLOODS IN ROME.

THE INUNDATIONS.

No such inundation of the Tiber has occurred in this century as that which took place at the end of last month. Incessant torrents of rain gradually swelled the river, and the water rose as high as the Rotonda (which, however, has been almost a yearly occurrence), and people began to apprehend from the threatening appearance of the sky that it would advance still farther towards the higher portion of the city. The Piazza del Popolo was completely flooded, and the water poured into the Corso down the side streets, from the Ripetta. The Via Condotti was flooded half way up, and the people who stood in crowds watching the progress of the water were obliged to retreat back every minute. Boats were rowed in the streets, carrying provisions and assistance to the inhabitants thus forcibly shut up in their houses. Great destruction of the wine and oil stored up in cellars has taken place, and the poor shopkeepers had enough to do to remove their wares from the ground floor to higher rooms. In the country around, great were the losses. Bodies of oxen, sheep, pigs, dogs, &c., passed down the river along with boards and planks, and other portions of the huts and folds of the Campagna, where the herdsmen and shepherds took refuge in the trees. Boats went backwards and forwards, bearing food to the inhabitants of the farms on the low ground, and taking into Rome those who had no refuge. The soldiers and police were busy affording all possible assistance to the sufferers. It is reported that a large boat, with twelve men, which started up the river with bread for the Osteria at Ponte Molle, was upset in the violent current, and all on board drowned. Up to half past ten in the evening of the 27th ult., the Tiber gave no great signs of overflowing, and nobody suspected in the least degree that it would have done so in so short a time as unfortunately was the case. After midnight in the Via Ripetta, one of the three long streets running parallel to the river, shrieks and cries from the population were heard. The Tiber could hold no more, and the waters were flowing furiously from the small side streets into Ripetta, and again by side streets into the principal thoroughfare, the Corso. Only a very few minutes had elapsed when the waters had reached a height of some five feet. Ripetta is, in a great measure, inhabited by the families of working men. At the back of each shop there is a room or two, in which five and even ten persons find a miserable rest after many hours of hard labour. The greater part of these poor wretches were sleeping when the waters reached as high as their beds. Rising from their beds, unconscious of what had happened, they found themselves surrounded by water. Of course the first thing they all did was to run to the outer doors. Many had already been forced open by the current; others fell upon the people as they attempted to open them, and, having done so, the water came dashing in with inexpressible fury. It was pitch dark, the gas pipes being all broken. The horror of such a scene cannot be depicted. One or two miserable boats had found their way from the river into the street, and it was in great part through their fortunate appearance that hundreds were saved at all. The cries of "Help, help! We are all being drowned!" were distressing. In a little while a perfect illumination was improvised. The lights shone on the furious waters, that were swelling ever more and more, and the faint cries of old men and women and shrieks of children announced that many remained to be saved. It was impossible to guess where the bed of the Tiber lay, for all the streets and fields to the walls of the Vatican seemed one enormous river. In the so-called Campi di Castello, extending at the back of the Castle of San Angelo, some of the detached country villas were covered to the very roof. The tops of the trees could scarcely be detected as they curved through the violence of the current. A number of the pontonniers were employed in saving the people who were crowding the roofs. The windows were all thronged with people, and but one cry resounded in every part, "Bread, bread!" All the bread that could be found had been distributed, and until fresh was made, or had arrived from Naples, not a loaf more could be dispensed. Progress through the streets was attended with never-ending lamentations; people seemed actually starving. The pale, livid faces spoke of fear and hunger, and it was mournful to see all—rich and poor alike—implored with joined hands for a morsel of bread. Many, especially in the Ghetto, had, by the water breaking into the shops, lost all they possessed. But they seemed to care for nothing at that moment—all they wanted was bread. A poor man cried out that he had five children, that they were starving, that he only asked to be allowed to enter a boat in order to go somewhere and fetch something to eat before sunset. While the officer was answering that if he only would have a little patience the boat was going to Monte Citorio, where the authorities reside, and would procure bread for all, the man, stripping himself of his things, plunged headlong into the waters. A general shriek rent the air. The pontonniers rowed as hard as they could against the current. One of the soldiers threw himself into the water, and, clasping the poor fellow by the arm, drew him safe to the boat. Meanwhile, a committee for the relief of the distressed population had been formed, the National Guard was called out, and pickets posted at the different bakers' shops to hasten the making of bread, and to take heed that it should not be sold too dear. As soon as a large quantity was baked it was conveyed by means of the fourgons of the train to spots nearer the inundated places, and from there distributed in boats to the different houses.

AFTER THE FLOODS.

I have made a tour round the streets and squares visited by the terrible inundation, and I must confess that the impression I received was one of the most painful. Indeed, in some places the water has not yet disappeared, and the squares of the Pantheon and of the Minerva have the appearance of two small lakes. The poorer quarters of the city, and more especially the Ghetto, where the Jews live, are distressing to see. Men, women, and children are literally half naked, and shiver with cold. The police officers and the members of the committees for the relief of the sufferers are there, distributing clothes and conveying the homeless to the different places destined to receive them. In those wretched shops nothing is saved, and the poor tradesmen, who behold all they possessed in complete ruin, are utterly broken down. The muddy streets are strewn with broken chairs and tables, and other goods reduced to perfect uselessness. It is with the greatest difficulty that the sufferers can be induced to abandon their houses. But however painful the sight of these things may be, I have witnessed even worse. I was allowed to enter, together with a police officer, a small shop which two young Lombards were known to inhabit. Being exceedingly poor, they had erected a sort of scaffolding which nearly reached to the top of the shop, and there they slept after their hard day's work. The inundation surprised them while they were sound asleep, and, finding it impossible to escape, both perished. They were tightly embraced, and their livid faces bespoke a terrible agony.

At St. Andrea delle Valle the waters subsided during the night. At daybreak one of the National Guards entering that street found lying on the pavement the corpses of two young men who, it is known, were drowned on the previous evening while attempting to save a boy.

In the Renella the corpse of a boy was found, carried by the current into the opening of a sewer. On the ground floor of a miserable house in Trastevere the police officers beheld a woeful spectacle. The corpse of the wife of a poor old-clothes merchant was found, with her two dead children in her arms. The corpse of an infant was found in a cradle floating close by. Another boy was found dead near a window in front of his own home. It is impossible to know at present the precise number of the victims. It is only a few hours since it has been possible to go about the neighbouring country, and the spectacle there is even more terrible. Huts where entire families used to live have

disappeared, and nobody can tell what has become of the poor inhabitants. As for the cattle and rural implements, nothing is saved.

Donations of money and clothes are pouring in from every quarter. Every Italian city and commune has opened subscriptions, and of course a great deal will be done on behalf of the sufferers. But the losses are so numerous that it will be impossible to collect as much as would be required to alleviate the misery of thousands and thousands; for, indeed, thousands and thousands are reduced to utter despair, without a home, without a farthing, without the hope, I might say, of finding the means to carry on in future their already too miserable existence.

At Monte Citorio, at the Capitol, in all those places destined for the distribution of bread, the sight is really touching. Hundreds of ragged country people and of the poorer inhabitants crowd the doorways, and the officers charged with the duty of dispensing the bread seem half maddened by the cries and lamentations saluting their ears.

The English residents here have formed a committee for the relief of the sufferers, and in a few hours have collected a good deal of money.—Correspondent of the "Daily News."

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

A Bordeaux decree of the 8th inst. extends for five months the delay in the payment of commercial bills signed before Aug. 15, and for three months for those signed between Aug. 15 and Oct. 15, and until April 15 the delay for protesting bills is extended from twenty-four hours to ten days. No prosecution can arise until the end of the war against subscribers, indorsers, and acceptors of bills performing, or who may perform, military service.

A decree of the 7th orders the formation of a body of 300 horsemen to be attached to the General commanding at Le Mans, to act as scouts in Sarthe, the Loiret, the Orne, Euro et Loire, and Seine et Oise. One hundred of these are to be Arab horsemen from Constantine. The commander of these corps has a right to "requisition" persons and things.

A circular of M. Gambetta requests the Prefects immediately to execute a decree ordering the creation and organisation of dépôts for the instruction of the artillerymen of the National Guard.

Cardinal Donnet, Archbishop of Bordeaux, has prepared a circular to his clergy recommending them to renounce their fees for the burial of all soldiers dying of wounds or sickness contracted during the war. The company which undertakes funerals on a scale of charges fixed by law has volunteered to furnish a funeral of a better class than the one paid for to every soldier who dies in Bordeaux; and a society for the relief of the wounded has determined to place a cross, with the name on it, upon the grave of every soldier, so as to enable sorrowing friends and relations to know the precise spot where he lies.

A correspondent of the *Times*, who has just travelled from Havre to Le Mans and back, and has had opportunities of mixing with a considerable number of French people of the middle classes, and of hearing their sentiments about the war, says:—"I found among them almost absolute unanimity. There is to be no peace until the last German has been expelled from French territory; and no sacrifice of money or of life is to be weighed in the balance against the object to be attained. With regard to the actual state of the country, there are, no doubt, extensive districts which are wasted and depopulated, and between the invasion and the defence there are probably a million and a half of consumers, who produce nothing. It would be easy to exaggerate the importance of these two elements in the case. There are vast accumulations of wealth in France, and the Government has no lack of money. Quite lately an American vessel brought a large cargo of arms and ammunition, and, on the demand of her captain, the whole price of her freight was paid down in gold before the hatches were opened. War curtails luxury and unnecessary expenditure; and to do this in France will go far towards paying its cost. People have found that they can wear out their old clothes and can drink cider instead of wine without losing either their self-respect or the respect of their neighbours. At Le Mans I saw Madame de Tocqueville take her place at the crowded table d'hôte of the third-rate inn to which alone I could gain admission, and afterwards carry round a salver to collect contributions for the wounded."

BELGIUM.

The question whether Belgium has a right to intern French military men who escape from Germany is about to be judicially settled, as two fugitive French officers who have been stopped in Belgium have now asked the Court to set them at liberty.

From the Italian Green-Book it appears that as to the affairs of Rome the Belgian Government has, with great judgment, confined itself to an expression of its desire to maintain friendly relations between Belgium and Italy and of its hope of seeing a reconciliation effected between the Pope and Italy. All the pressure of the Belgian Ultramontanes on the Ministry to force on an active intervention has, therefore, been in vain.

SPAIN.

From Madrid we learn that a Republican insurrection has broken out at Bania, in the province of Granada. The movement is said to be an unimportant one, but we fear it forbodes mischief.

GERMANY.

The Prussian Government has declared that Catholic Bishops have no right to remove and deprive of their salaries those Catholic professors of theology who repudiate the Infallibility doctrine.

It is doubtful whether the Bavarian Second Chamber will approve the German charter with the requisite majority of two thirds.

The election of the members of the Reichstag will be held, at the earliest, in the first half of February.

An address has been presented by the Corporation of Frankfurt to the King at Versailles congratulating him on his election to the Imperial Crown of Germany, and praying that his Majesty will not overlook the historical title of Frankfurt to be the scene of his coronation.

A Berlin correspondent says that the attempts to block up the Seine by sinking ships in it are to be given up, or at all events that more effective means are to be adopted. A detachment of fifty pioneers and thirty sailors has left Kiel by special train for Paris, with a number of torpedoes, which are to be placed in the river, and thus prevent the French gun-boats from ascending it, and bringing relief or provisions to the besieged city. The same correspondent mentions a report, according to which Alsace and German Lorraine are to become a fief of the Imperial Crown, governed by a viceroy, and with a distinct legislature. A large number of landed proprietors in Alsace, who have been consulted, are said to be favourable to this arrangement, which, moreover, is to be carried out before the conclusion of peace.

LUXEMBURG.

It is stated from Berlin that Count Bismarck has caused the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to be officially informed that on the first breach of neutrality—particularly on the occasion of the siege of Longwy—part of the grand duchy will be occupied by German troops. In any case, a demand for indemnity will be addressed directly to the Luxembourg Government.

AUSTRIA.

The official *Warren's Correspondence* gives the programme of the Austrian Government with regard to the Conference:—1st. That the Conference should make a solemn protest against the violation of treaties and declare the sacredness of international obligations. 2nd. That the abandonment of article 14 be afterwards proposed and compensation offered to the Powers prejudiced by such abandonment.

Accounts from Pesth confirm the report that the Government intends to introduce a modification of the regulations forbidding the export of arms.

TURKEY.

Prince Charles has informed the Porte that he does not intend to withdraw from the stipulations imposed on Roumania by the Treaty of 1866.

Arvanitaki, Spano, Calzoy, and other chiefs, with over eighty Hellenic brigades, coming from Greece, were, on Dec. 31, attacked at Ermece by Turkish troops. Their losses are estimated at twenty men. The Turkish detachment was very inferior in number, and suffered heavily. The pursuit was being conducted vigorously.

RUSSIA.

The Minister for War has submitted a scheme to the Emperor according to which military service will be incumbent on the population for a period of fifteen years. Of this period the men will serve seven years with the colours. Twenty-five per cent. of the class twenty-one years of age will be levied annually. Immunity by purchase is abolished. The educated classes are permitted to enter the army as volunteers at seventeen years of age, and get the benefit of a shorter period of service. Those able to pass certain examinations will be promoted to commissions.

GREECE.

The President of the Ministry, in explaining in the Chamber the programme of the Cabinet, said:—"We wish to maintain friendly relations with foreign Powers, and to develop and improve the internal resources of the country. We shall respect the rights of foreigners, especially those of our neighbours. Our foreign policy will be peaceful."

Mr. Noel, the Englishman alleged to have been implicated in the massacres at Marathon, and who effected his escape after a warrant had been issued for his arrest, has since surrendered.

THE UNITED STATES.

A diplomatic correspondence has been published, which shows that Mr. Motley, on Dec. 7, wrote to Mr. Secretary Fish expressing astonishment at his recall without any previous intimation or any direct charges of dereliction of duty being preferred. Mr. Motley's letter concludes thus:—"I record my solemn protest against the outrage, as I believe it to be entirely without precedent, of my peremptory removal."

The *New York Times*, discussing General Schenck's mission, expresses its opinion that no Minister will ever secure more favourable terms for the settlement of the Alabama claims than Mr. Reverdy Johnson, who, though much abused, directed the negotiations very skillfully and successfully.

THE BISHOP OF MANCHESTER ON THE EDUCATION ACT.—The Bishop of Manchester was present, on Saturday evening, at the distribution of prizes and certificates connected with the Otham school and art classes. In the course of his remarks his Lordship expressed a belief that wherever there was enlightened public opinion in favour of education the Education Act would become a great and powerful reality; but where there was no such developed opinion he did not think there would be any great difference twenty-five years hence from what was at present existing, unless, indeed, the Education Department exercised more arbitrarily than any department had done hitherto the powers conferred upon them under the Act.

CURIOUS DISCOVERIES.—The Yale College expedition to the Rocky Mountains seems to have led to discoveries worthy the attention of Mr. F. Buckland. Professor Marsh and his colleagues have, according to the *New York Herald*, returned home with some interesting relics. At the Antelope Well, near the Antelope station on the Union Pacific Railroad—where, it is stated, human remains have been dug up from a depth of 68 ft.—Professor Marsh discovered the bones of a miniature fossil horse, which he has named *Equus parvulus*. Altogether four different species of the horse were found:—1. The *Equus parvulus*. 2. A horse of the three-toed or tripparian type. 3. An animal with two small hoofs dangle behind, like those of an ox or deer. 4. A horse larger than the modern animal. Of other animals obtained from this well there were two kinds of rhinoceros, an animal something like a hog, one or two allied to the camel, and two or three enormous animals—one of them larger than a lion. In all, fifteen species of extinct animals were found in a space of 10 ft. in diameter and only 6 ft. or 8 ft. in depth, making it, says the *Herald*, by far the most remarkable animal discovery ever made in any part of the world. It is supposed that the well was once the margin of a great lake, and that the extinct beasts sank down in the mire when they went into the water to drink. Professor Marsh has also, among other curiosities, the result of discoveries made during the expedition, a single joint of a venerable sea-serpent, from which he will be able to construct a snake not less than 60 ft. long. "The projecting arm" to which the rib was attached, shows the monster to have been in every way a reptile of immense proportions.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

THE RECEPTION OF THE FRENCH MINISTER.—The executive committee of the "French Minister's Reception Committee" are actively at work making preparations for the reception of M. Jules Favre. On Tuesday night those in communication with the officials at the French Embassy could not obtain any exact information as to the day on which he will arrive. Some novel features will (according to a correspondent) mark the procession, which it is proposed should accompany M. Jules Favre from Charing-cross to Albert-gate, Hyde Park, upon his arrival in London. Inquiries have been made for the whereabouts of the sailors belonging to the ships sunk in the Seine by the Prussians, and telegrams sent to Newcastle-on-Tyne and Shields, whither the men were stated to have gone, the object being to have their presence at the procession, in order to make the demonstration more thoroughly anti-Prussian. On Wednesday night a telegram in reply was received from Shields, stating that one of the sailors had been found, and that steps would be taken to discover the others, in order that they might be communicated with by the French Minister's Reception Committee. In the procession a British ensign, surmounted by the words "Trodden on by King William and Bismarck," and flanked at each side by the inscriptions "The Flag that Braved a Thousand Years," and "Britannia Rules the Waves," will be carried by sailors. The ensign itself will be decorated with foot prints of mud, suggestive of the British flag having been trampled under foot by the Prussians. In addition to these manifestations it is intended to communicate with all the masters of merchant-vessels at present in the port of London, in order that they, and the men employed upon their ships, should take part in the demonstration and march in procession after the "out-raged" flag. A leading reformer in Birmingham has been communicated with, in order that a contingent from that town should join the procession.

"WHO'S WHO IN 1871."—There are 231 members of the Privy Council of England and Ireland, of whom 31 are entitled to sit on the Judicial Committee. The House of Peers consists of four Princes of the Blood Royal, 2 archbishops, 27 dukes, 32 marquises, 164 earls, 35 viscounts, 24 bishops, and 174 barons, making a total of 462. There are 106 peers of Scotland and Ireland who are not members of the Upper House—viz., 1 marquis, 31 earls, 20 viscounts, and 54 barons. The House of Commons consists of 652 members, there being at present four vacant seats. The nobility of the United Kingdom are 548 in number, and there are 14 peers who are minors, of whom one (the Earl of Pembroke) will come of age in 1871. There are 13 peeresses in their own right, and 23 widows of peers whose titles have become extinct. The number of judges in England is 26, and in Ireland 23; and there are 13 Scotch lords of session. There are 2 archbishops of the Church of England, and 28 bishops, of whom two are suffragans. The Irish Episcopal Church consists of 2 archbishops and 10 bishops; and the number of Indian, colonial, and missionary bishops is 54. There are 7 bishops of the Scotch Episcopal Church, and the number of retired bishops is 19. The Roman Catholic Church in England numbers 12 prelates; and there are four archbishops of that Church in Ireland. There are 22 accredited foreign ministers in England; and the number of British ministers abroad is 32. The number of governors of British possessions and colonies is 60; and the lords lieutenant of counties in Great Britain and Ireland are 117. There are 863 baronets of the United Kingdom; and the number of noblemen and baronets who are knights is 128. There are 519 knights civil and military, exclusive of the honorary knights and the native knights of the Star of India. The Order of the Bath contains 792 companions; and there are 162 companions of the Orders of the Star of India and St. Michael and St. George, which number includes the surviving knights of Hanover. There are four field marshals of the British Army; and the number of general officers of all ranks (including those on half pay, and those whose rank is purely honorary) is 629. The Indian army contains 294 general officers; and the number of flag officers in the Navy is 315. The number of aides-de-camp to the Queen is 44; and there are 32 medical officers who are honorary physicians and surgeons to her Majesty. The judges of the county courts are 61 in number; and there are 197 queen's counsel and serjeants-at-law in England—the number in Ireland being 110. The number of recorders of boroughs and cities in England and Wales is 98. There are 33 deans of cathedrals and collegiate churches in England and Wales; and the number of archdeacons in the same division of the kingdom is 70. The chaplains and priests in ordinary to the Queen number 64. The number of royal academicians is 42, there being one vacancy to fill up; and there are three vacancies in the list of associates, who are 20 in number.

THE PIANOFORTE AND ITS MANUFACTURE.

The pianoforte as an instrument is immediately suggestive of peaceful home pleasures. Other musical instruments may be employed in war as well as in peace, but the pianoforte is entirely an instrument for peaceful times and seasons of prosperity, the very rumour of any probability of war immediately influencing its sale. The vague idea that possibly England might be forced into war during the recent complications of the Eastern question was sufficient to cause a perceptible check to its manufacture.

By the courtesy of Messrs. John Brinsmead and Sons, of Wigmore-street, we were enabled a few days since to trace in actual operation some interesting details connected with the production of this essentially home instrument. The principal points of interest in this visit we shall now endeavour briefly to mention. After examining the choice and well-seasoned timber employed in pianoforte manufacture in the timber-yards of this firm, we were conducted to a part of the works in Chenies-street, where almost every description of wood, metal, woollen fabrics, and leather, all of the best possible kind, appear to be required for producing the instrument, which, when finished, shows so few of them on its surface. Passing through a third timber-yard and up apparently endless flights of stairs, we arrive at a large room in which are shown a number of perfectly-finished pianos of every description, ready for conveyance to the show-rooms by the vans in the yard below. Expressing a wish to have the process of manufacture explained, from its perfected to its earliest stages, in the same manner as if we were to take our own piano to pieces and each part were then described, we are shown into a room in which are nearly-finished instruments, but without the outer ornamental portion. A small section of this room is the subject of our illustration. Here, on our left, are tuners so earnestly bent on their work as to make us envy the ease and rapidity with which they resolve dreadful discords into perfect harmony. The remainder of the room is occupied by men who are giving finishing touches to the polishing, and by others attending to the regulation of the mechanism. This, we are informed, is the Regulating Shop, from which the instruments are taken into another room, where the whole of the outer ornaments, which have been previously prepared, when fitted on, make the piano complete. Descending a flight of stairs, we arrive at another large room—the Finishing Shop—in which are numbers of workmen busily engaged in fitting together the different portions of the striking mechanism termed the action, and adjusting these into the outer case. We now proceed to the store-rooms from which these finishers have the different parts of the mechanism they require. Descending another flight of stairs we find the atmosphere, which in the rooms above, on a cold January day, was a genial summer heat, becoming, as we descend, warmer and warmer. The reason for this, as we soon discover, is that part of the drying-rooms are below us, in which the wood, previously dried by exposure to the air for years, is subjected to great heat, by means of hot air carried round in pipes, which entirely precludes any possibility of the timber strengthening in the piano warping in any way at a future time. We gladly escape from the almost intolerable heat of this enormous store-room, with its endless stacks of dried wood, and enter the machine department. Here we find circular-saws, planing-machines, and other mechanical contrivances untiringly performing the work given them to do in a manner greatly superior to the labour performed entirely by hand, and at a materially lessened cost.

Rescending, we cross a bridge connecting the two factories, which together cover an area of nearly an acre, and enter a carefully-locked room full of sheets of woods hardly thicker than an ordinary visiting-card, arranged in piles and bundles. These delicately-thin sheets—"leaves" they are termed—are the most valuable walnut and rosewood veneers obtainable. The walnut ones, so wonderfully varied in their beautifully-marked patterns, are extremely rare and costly. They are cut only in warm climates from the rough excrescences which occasionally grow on walnut-trees.

We now pass through a long room, in which the stringers are rapidly putting on the steel and copper covered strings and driving in the tuning pegs or pins, round and through which they are wound. Here, too, the rough-tuners are drawing up the strings to their proper pitch, which produce most melancholy sounds as they gain the proper degree of tension. We then enter the Check Repeater Action Finishing Shop, in which the better-class pianos are fitted with the improvements for which Messrs. Brinsmead and Sons have obtained many first-class medals; one of which, the gold medal, was awarded them only a month before the outbreak of the present Franco-German war.

Travelling onward through a series of similar rooms, we arrive at the Polishers' Shop, where a host of quickly-moving hands armed with "rubbers" are busily engaged in brightening up the different ornamental parts with their rather unsavoury mixture of gums and spirits of all shades and colours. We next enter the region where the outer cases are fitted to the backs of the pianos. And here let us remark that the pianoforte has an almost complete anatomy of its own—its back, its neck, its legs, and its various other members being named after some real or supposed resemblance to the different parts of the human frame. We pay a brief visit to the Casemakers' Room, and then pass on to the Part-Makers' Shop, where the various separate portions of the outer case are prepared for the fitters-up. Here we learn how the fall—the half-round flap that covers the keyboard when closed—is formed by gluing the edges of several thicknesses of thin boards firmly together, then rounding the surface to the required form, finally fastening a covering of veneer over the whole, and then placing it between hot metal moulds, or cauls, in a caul-cupboard, in which coils of pipe, by the aid of steam rushing through, give the requisite heat. This causes us to notice that steam is used throughout the factories to prevent the danger which would arise from having open fires. Steam is everywhere; steam carried round in pipes gives the pleasant warmth we have noticed; steam heats all those rows of glue-pots ranging round the shops; steam supplies the power for impelling the machinery in the different machine-rooms; steam forces itself into huge cupboards, in which the timber for the various parts where special caution is necessary is placed in such a manner that larvae which so often produce dry-rot in wood are at once destroyed, and any moisture remaining after the successive dryings the wood has undergone is at last forced out.

Mounting to the highest floor in the manufactory, we are introduced to the process of making sounding-boards, and learn how particular is the selection of the wood for this purpose from the fir-trees in the mountain forests of Switzerland and Germany, cut in a peculiar manner, each cut radiating from the centre of the tree, to obtain the exactly requisite direction of the grain. These boards are placed edge to edge, according to their grain, with great care; for upon the skill with which the different grains of the boards are arranged the tone of the piano greatly depends, those suitable for sustaining the vibration of the treble-strings not serving equally well for the bass. Strong bars are now glued on the back of the sounding-boards, giving them additional strength; and the whole is then cleaned off and varnished several times, to preserve them, and assist them in vibrating with the impetus given by the strings when in motion. We now descend to the room where these sounding-boards are fixed into the back or framework, and where the parts for the pins to be driven in are marked off to a series of scales. Descending another story we are introduced to the Backmakers' Department, where we learn that the tension caused by the strings of an instrument being drawn up to the high pitch now generally used is from twelve to sixteen tons pressure. This enormous and perpetual strain gives us some idea of the immense strength requisite to resist so great a pressure, and we are not surprised therefore to see the extreme care with which Messrs. John Brinsmead and Sons construct this part of the instrument; for if any part of it were to give way the tone would be spoiled by the pressure upon the sounding-board

bending it and preventing its vibrating properly. This principle, invented by Messrs. John Brinsmead and Sons, we will briefly explain. Strong bracings of the most resonant wood are placed between the wrist plank, with its many thicknesses of hard wood, into which the turning-pins with the strings are driven at one end, and the metallic plate to which the strings are attached at the other, to prevent the two ends pulling inwards by the tension of the strings. Besides this massive framework, which materially improves the tone, metallic tubes are so introduced where they are most needed that not only is the possibility of the instrument being spoiled by the extreme strain entirely removed, but the instruments with this improvement naturally do not require nearly so great an amount of tuning as those manufactured on the ordinary principle, for the metallic tubes compensate for the expansion or contraction of the metal strings in heat or cold by expanding or contracting equally with them, and thus keeping up the same tension continually.

Leaving this extremely important branch of the manufacture we reach the second machinery department, where circular saws, large saws, small saws, saws jerking up and down in the most eccentric manner possible are ceaselessly impelled by the bands from the engine below with an almost deafening whirl and clatter. Here, too, are machines for boring many thicknesses of wood at once, machines for making dowels of all sizes, and machines for every use to which they can with advantage be applied. We now descend to the lowest floor, and find ourselves in a reserve veneer-room, then pass into a second department for drying wood artificially, in which more valuable wood is being slowly toasted in most uncomfortably warm racks and piles. We then pass beyond the second engine-house, and are surprised to find fresh stacks of well-seasoned wood in the yard belonging to this side of the works.

We traverse the store for the packing-cases, then pass into the packing-room, whence pianos are sent to all parts of the globe in their tin-lined waterproof cases; and then we are out again in the cold, frosty air—all the colder for the change from the temperate climate of the manufactory we have just left—with a very pleasing recollection of the manner in which the pianoforte is produced from so great a multitude of elements, after passing through at least thirty stages in its manufacture, many of which we should not have dreamed of had we confined our inquiries to the study of the exterior of our own "drawing-room orchestra" and to its qualities of touch and tone alone.

THE FINEST BRACE OF THE SEASON.

ARE sportsmen especially amenable to the tender passion? They scarcely obtain credit for that estimable softness of character which is regarded as essential to the appreciation of the charms of female society; and yet it may be that many a man takes to the amusements of the field or the cover-side from a modest sense of his own uprightness for the constant claims of the drawing-room. It might even be found that the most ardent Nimrod of the county has a kind of wistful envy of the man whose achievements in the stubble or at the meet would be held in contempt by keepers and whippers-in, and would be very willing to exchange the robust shouts that hark the "stole away" for the ability to sing a mellow second in a duet from the newest operetta. Curiously enough, the men who go so gently and are so well able to monopolise attention during the long evenings are the most presumptuous and overbearing, in spite of their quiet demeanour, and the stout fellows who are foremost at the ugly jumps and first in at the death, or whose mornings are passed ankle-deep in the wet sludge that they may make a big bag, are bashful fellows whose boisterous talk and clumsy reticence are but symptoms of their own sense of unfitness. If some of them could but know what observant glances are directed to them from bright eyes, and how differently women estimate men, they might take heart, and would be seen oftener at the tea-table, and not quite so near the drawing-room door, on the look-out for the first chance of "a quiet cigar." Even young farmers, who think they are such rough fellows as to be out of the way of loveliness and are as shy as partridges, might then be less confused when they come suddenly at a break in the hedge and find themselves face to face with such beautiful birds as these two glossy visitants from the Hall. As it is, the order of events is reversed, and the sportsman himself is hit right and left with double-barrelled glances that give him a sort of death-flutter. Ah! if those two roguish beauties would but exercise their power wisely, they might redeem "sport" from much of its cruelty. "Sparrow Clubs" would perish from the earth if no sparrow-killers were allowed to share the evening dance or the social tea; and even the correspondent who writes to *Land and Water* that he has just "seen and shot a strange white wood-pigeon," and hears there is another somewhere which he "intends to find and kill," might be brought to reason and humanity, even though he be a dab at ornithology, if for every dead white pigeon he knew that he should be in the black lists of the irreconcilable ducks who permit sport, but set their eyes against slaughter.

THE TOWER SUBWAY.—An experiment has been made at the Tower Subway of allowing the public to walk through at the charge of one half-penny. This system commenced the day before Christmas day, and the traffic has already exceeded 2500 passengers daily, and is increasing so rapidly as to render its continuance probable. The subway being only a quarter of a mile in length, and a single line, foot passengers, on the average, cross over as quickly as by the use of a carriage, as the delay in waiting for the carriage is avoided, and great expense is saved.

THE BRITISH VESSELS SUNK IN THE SEINE.—The following message from Count Bismarck to the North German Ambassador in London, respecting the British vessels sunk in the Seine, was communicated to Lord Granville on Monday afternoon:—"Versailles, Jan. 8, 1871.—The report of the commander of that part of our army by which the English collier-ships were sunk in the Seine has not yet arrived. But as far as our intelligence goes the general outline of the facts is known. You are authorised in consequence to say to Lord Granville that we sincerely regret that our troops, in order to avert immediate danger, were obliged to seize ships which belonged to British subjects. We admit their claim to indemnification, and shall pay to the owners the value of the ships according to equitable estimation, without keeping them waiting for the decision of the question who is finally to indemnify them. Should it be proved that excesses have been committed which were not justified by the necessity of defence, we should regret it still more, and call the guilty persons to account. The official answer to Lord Augustus Loftus's note will follow after the report from the army has been received."

NEGATIVE VIRTUE AND APPLICABLE VICE.—A little story, told by a correspondent of the *Daily News*, is worth noting. The writer was talking with a German Captain near Versailles, and they fell upon the subject of pillage, of which the correspondent had just seen several very notable illustrations. The officer defended his men as being the victims of temptation:—"The German soldier (he said) is not naturally inclined to plundering and acts of wanton destruction; but the disposition thereto inevitably arises out of the state of war, especially when carried on in a rich country like France. In the Bohemian campaign of 1866 it was different, for we were mostly quartered in miserable hovels, where there was little temptation to pillage. It is impossible for the officers to prevent it, regrettable as it is. I can understand the fellows tearing down the curtains to make neck-wrappers of, but cannot make out their smashing drawing-room mirrors." There is a sweet simplicity in this excuse which it would be a pity to spoil by comment. Where there was no excuse to steal, the soldiers didn't steal it; where there is much to steal or to destroy, they do both. That is the philosophical view of pillage, and the natural one.—*Birmingham Post*.

A GIANTESS AND HER HUSBAND CHARGED WITH BIGAMY.—At the Police Court at Hanley, Staffordshire, on Tuesday, Ellen Stevens, who travels about the country for exhibition as a giantess, under the name of "Miss Wallace," and whose proportions astonished those who saw her in court, charged her husband with bigamy, and was examined at great length. She said she was married at Wolverhampton, in 1848, and lived with her husband till April, 1869, when he gave her £200 and her van, and left her. In May, 1870, he married Mrs. Reader, at Manchester. The defence was that it would be a stretch of the law to punish Stevens under the circumstances, the second wife not feeling aggrieved. The magistrates, however, committed Stevens for trial at the next Assizes at Stafford. A warrant was applied for against Mrs. Stevens for bigamy. A witness deposed that he saw Mrs. Stevens married to William Day, at Leith, near Edinburgh, in January, 1870, and that they had lived together as man and wife since. The warrant was granted.

IMPROVEMENTS IN PROVINCIAL TOWNS: LUTON.

THE town of Luton, in Bedfordshire, is an almost solitary example in the south of England, of what is very common in the north—that is, of an insignificant place seizing upon some particular branch of industry, pursuing said industry with energy, diligence, and intelligence, and bringing itself into note thereby. That is how Nottingham has become famous for lace, Northampton for shoes, Coventry for ribbons, and Luton for straw-plait, bonnets, and straw hats. It is curious to note, by-the-way, how special industries should locate themselves in particular places. The mineral riches of Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Staffordshire, in England—of Lanarkshire, in Scotland, and of certain districts in Wales, make it easy to understand how mining, smelting, and working in iron should be so largely carried on in those regions; the bounty of Nature has made Tubal Cains of half the population there, while the other half find occupation in following industries to which convenient and large supplies of fuel and iron are indispensable. Cyclopedian ironworks and colossal cotton and woollen factories naturally seat themselves in districts where the materials for making machines and keeping them in motion are abundant. These circumstances easily account for the special industries of the north; but it is not plain why Northampton men should instinctively, as it were, take to making shoes; why Nottingham people should be addicted to weaving lace and hose; and why the girls of Beds and Herts should devote themselves, with one accord, to converting straw into plait, and plait into hats. Yet so it is; and we suppose the explanation is to be found in the simple fact that in each district some enterprising individuals saw an opening for a particular branch of industry suited to local conditions, pushed it vigorously, and, being successful, were joined by others; and so the enterprise grew and prospered. That, at all events, is the history, so far as we can make out, of the straw trade of which Luton is the great centre and emporium. Intelligence and energy, however, have done more for Luton than merely to render it the chief seat of an important branch of trade. A straggling, shabby, insignificant village, which the place was only comparatively a few years ago, with ill-made roads, no drainage, a bad water supply, and where peasants and pigs lived in unwholesome proximity to each other, has by energy and intelligence been converted into a handsome town of over 20,000 inhabitants, well-drained, amply-watered, abundantly lighted, and with regular, well-made, and cleanly-kept streets. Luton early took advantage of the Health of



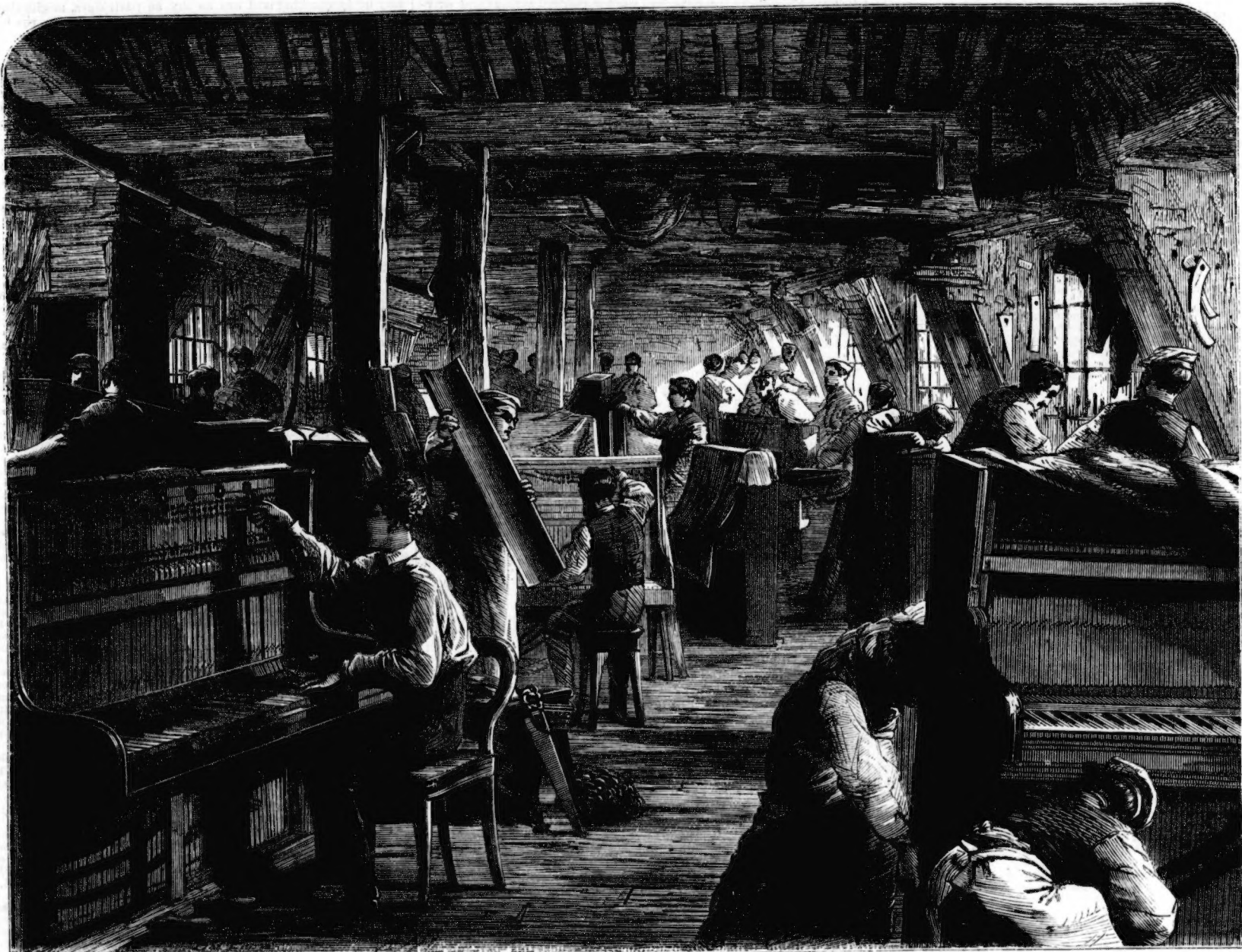
IMPROVEMENTS IN PROVINCIAL TOWNS: LUTON CORN EXCHANGE.

Towns Act; and, under the care of an active and judicious local board of health, has made the wonderful progress we have noted above. The town boasts of several streets of handsome houses, such as King-street, George-street, Bute-street, Cheapside, and others.

But it is of its public buildings, perhaps, of which the town has most reason to be proud. Besides a fine old parish church, which has recently been judiciously repaired, there are several neat chapels, of which that belonging to the Congregationalists is perhaps the most noteworthy. It is, however, with what may be called the public buildings proper that we have now to do. These consist of the Townhall, at what we suppose is the north-west or north end of George-street (we forgot to study the vases when we were in the town the other day, and consequently are not sure how the streets run), a respectable edifice enough, with a cupola and clock over the porch; but, being now some years old, is rather too small for present uses, we should fancy.

Then there is the Corn Exchange, represented in our Engraving, situated at the opposite end of the same street. This is a handsome building, in the Italian-Gothic, or some such style, with a neat though modest spire, the capital clock in which was a gift from the local bankers, Messrs. Sharples and Lucas. The ground floor is fitted up as a meat market, open on Saturday evenings, and is an immense convenience to both the butchers and their customers. Above is the Corn Exchange, a handsome room, containing between thirty and forty stands, and is well attended by farmers and corndealers; for Luton, though best known for its productions in straw, is also the centre of an important agricultural district. The upper room is also used for meetings, concerts, lectures, &c., for which it is well adapted; and there are rooms for offices, &c., attached, but these have not yet been used for that purpose. Tolls are levied for the use of the stalls and stands in both markets, which are willingly paid, the accommodation being deemed well worth the charge. The foundation-stone was laid in January, 1868, and the building was opened for use on Jan. 18, 1869, a grand banquet being given on the occasion, at which, among other distinguished persons, there was present Mr. Reverdy Johnson, then American Minister in this country. The architects were Messrs. Messenger and Gundry; the builders, Smart Brothers, Luton.

The third institution to which we wish to call attention is the Plait Hall (or rather halls, for there are two large apartments communicating with each other) in Cheapside and Waller-street. This edifice was begun and finished at the same dates as the Corn Ex-



PIANOFORTE-MAKING: THE REGULATORS' SHOP AT MESSRS. J. BRINSMEAD AND SONS' MANUFACTORY.



"THE FINEST BRACE OF THE SEASON."—(DRAWN BY JULES DAVID.)

change, and, being more immediately connected with the staple industry of the town, is both much larger and attended by vastly greater numbers of dealers. As many as 10,000 persons, we were assured, have been assembled here, and fully that number pass in and out in the course of a market day. Each of the two large halls is divided by a central partition, half the height of the roof, along which and all round the walls are convenient benches and shelves whereon the sellers arrange their plait for the inspection of buyers. An inspector of plait is present on market-days, and takes care that each parcel of plait is what it pretends to be—that is, that it contains the full number of yards, or scores of yards, ticketed upon it. Defective parcels are confiscated, and the delinquent dealers severely dealt with. The rules, however, being well known, infringements of them are rare; and, indeed, the whole arrangements are so perfect as to be highly satisfactory to all concerned. Hundreds of thousands of “scores” of plait are exhibited for sale here every week, and many thousand pounds sterling change hands each market-day. Large quantities for sale on other days throughout the week are also stored on the premises, to guard which watchmen are always on duty. The inner hall is likewise used for meetings, concerts, &c., and constitutes an excellent drill-shed for the local volunteer corps. It should be mentioned that straw-plaiting is mainly carried on in the smaller towns and villages in the neighbourhood, Luton devoting itself chiefly to the sewing, or making up of the plait into hats and bonnets—mostly the former, now-a-days, bonnets (in any proper sense of the word) having gone out of fashion. From the outlying districts the plait is collected by dealers, who dispose of it to the manufacturers in the Plait Hall of Luton.

Both the Corn Exchange and the Plait Hall are the property of the community, as represented by the Board of Health, under whose auspices they were erected. The tolls collected now amount to fully £1200 a year, and it is expected that, after covering all expenses, a surplus of £500 a year will be available for reduction of rates. Some idea of the recent increase of trade in the town may be gathered from the fact that in former times, when the markets were held in the streets, the tollages only amounted to about £400 a year; so that they are now threefold what they were before the Corn Exchange and Plait Hall were erected. The buildings are under the general care of Mr. Edmund Baisley, collector of tolls, inspector of workshops, &c., to whom we are indebted for the greater part of the above information.

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M.P., SALVATOR MUNDI.

We knew it. We said so. We told our readers many long months ago, when they first heard solemn whispers concerning a Drunkards' Bill to be brought into Parliament by Mr. Dalrymple, that it was beyond the power of the wildest imagination to predict the scope of such a measure, or of the legislative enactments which might logically hang on by the tail of it. And we said sooth. The published “prospectus” of the contemplated measure, or statement of what it aims at accomplishing, goes far beyond our most extravagant dreams.

The precious document lies in print before us. There is a “society,” of course, which has taken in hand the promotion of the bill. Colonel Akroyd, M.P., is the “Hon. Treasurer.” Donald Dalrymple, Esq., M.P., is the “Vice-President”—a mistake, we presume, for Virtue Precedent. Messrs. Cunliffe, Brooks, and Co., are the Bankers. The Rev. W. Stanier, M.A., is the “Gen. Hon. Sec.” The apparatus of organisation is complete. And what does the bill “propose to do”? This is the phraseology of the appeal of its promoters, and the answer to the question is unreserved and exact.

Of course, as we predicted would be the case, the bill is to have no such humble and perfectly legitimate object as that of punishing drunkards (who break the law) for breaking the law, or merely confining those of them who are madmen. What the “bill proposes to do” is, according to its promoters: “1, To save from destruction of body and soul those who are ruining both by habitual or excessive drinking.” The italics are ours; we particularly request that they may be noted. The 4th object is, “To save from mental and physical debility the offspring of those who habitually drink to excess.” The 5th object is to “restore the self-control and self-respect of the drunkard.” This is a pretty programme.

Now we come to the heading, “How the bill does its work.” It gives “the drunkard . . . amendment of body and mind, combined with medical aid and moral enlightenment.” The 3rd clause is, we regret to say, ungrammatical:—“By restoring physical and mental power, so as to resume occupation and earn a subsistence.” This precious sentence is signed by a gentleman who writes M.A. after his name. Clause 4 is simply an amplification of Clause 3:—“By restoring the power of self-control, self-respect, and self-denial.” In clause 5 we become more serious:—“By showing the Drunkard that his life has been a sin, and that the result thereof is death”—i.e., damnation. To this document is appended the name of the Rev. W. Stanier, who winds up with the following flourish:—“This the Habitual Drunkards' Bill can do, and therefore it ought to become law.”

If Mr. Dalrymple, the original promoter of the bill, stands

committed to this silly and ignorant prospectus, the very worst prophecies we ever uttered about what was likely to be attempted by the mediocrities of the new Parliament are more than justified. All hail, M.P. Salvator Mundi! Here we are deliberately told that an Act of Parliament is to save men from “destruction of the soul,” to prevent “debility,” to “restore self-respect,” to give “moral enlightenment,” to restore “the power of self-denial,” to show the “habitual or excessive” drinker—these are the words of the programme—that his life is “a sin,” and that the “result thereof is”—the penalty which we all hear described in various terms on the first day of the week. We pause to draw breath. But if there are associated lunatics—with bankers, and therefore we presume with funds—who think that any, the minutest, shred of all this is within the scope or the possibility of an Act of Parliament, it is time to look about us. We counsel reprisals. We propose a Confirmed Drivellers' Bill, for conveying “moral” and other “enlightenment” to persons who show, as these do, that they do not know the first principles of natural justice, and that they consider the conversion of the soul, the restoration of self-respect, and the forcible prevention of “debility,” proper functions of governmental police. If anybody inquires whether such persons are not entitled to courtesy, we at once reply, No; they are not. A man who, like Father Mathew, does his best to put down drunkenness by moral suasion is entitled to our love and our respect, whatever we may think of the “pledge” system. But the man who proposes to save mankind from the “destruction of the soul through habitual drinking” by legislative compulsion is as proper an object of contempt, invective, and social outlawry as any burglar is of a good knock from a life-preserver and the restraint of a pair of handcuffs.

OBITUARY.

THE EARL OF AYLESFORD.—We have to announce the death of the above nobleman, which took place on Tuesday morning, at his residence, in Lower Grosvenor-street, Grosvenor-square. The deceased, Henrice Finch, was the eldest son of the fifth Earl, by Lady Augusta Sophia Groville, fourth daughter of the second Earl of Warwick and Brooke, and was born at Packington, in 1824. He married, in 1846, the only daughter and heir of the late John Wightwick Knightley, Esq., of the Bury, Offchurch, Warwickshire, and succeeded his father in the family honours in 1859. In 1848 he was appointed Major in the Warwickshire Yeomanry Cavalry, and in 1852 a Deputy-Lieutenant for the county of Warwick. He served in Parliament for South Warwickshire from 1849 to 1857. The first Earl was eminent at the Bar, and held the office of Solicitor-General in 1678, and represented Oxford in the Convention Parliament, and in the reign of George I. was Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. The late nobleman is succeeded by his eldest son, Henrice, Lord Guernsey, who was born in February, 1849, and recently married Miss Edith Williams, daughter of Colonel Peers Williams, of Craig-y-Don, Bangor.

MR. JOHN ABEL SMITH.—The death is announced of a Parliamentary veteran—Mr. John Abel Smith, late of Dale Park, near Chichester, which city he long represented, in the Liberal interest. Mr. John Abel Smith was one of the well-known family, who have been leading bankers in London for a century, and whose head was raised to the Peerage, on the recommendation of Mr. Pitt, in 1796, as Lord Carington. Mr. J. A. Smith, who was born in 1801, was the eldest son of the late Mr. John Smith, of Blendon Hall, Kent, some time M.P. for Buckinghamshire, by Mary, daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Tucker. He was educated at Christ's College, Cambridge, where he took his Bachelor's degree in 1824, and afterwards proceeded M.A. In 1830 he entered Parliament as M.P. for Midhurst; and at the general election of the following year he was returned for Chichester, for which city he continued to sit until 1859. He was again elected by his old constituents in 1863, and sat until the last general election. Mr. Smith, who died, a few days ago, at Kippington, near Sevenoaks, was head of the great banking firm which bears his name, a magistrate for Middlesex and Sussex, a large East India proprietor, and a director of the University Life Assurance Company. He married, in 1827, Anne, daughter of the late Sir Samuel Clarke Jervoise, of Idsworth Park, near Horndean, and widow of Mr. Ralph William Grey, of Backworth House, Northumberland, by whom he has left, with other issue, a son, Mr. Jervoise Smith, who sat for a short time in the last Parliament as M.P. for Falmouth and Penryn.

A CIRCULAR has been issued by the Medical Department of the Privy Council, in which the attention of the local authorities is directed to section 28 of the Vaccination Act of 1867. By this they are empowered to appoint special officers to institute inquiries, and take proceedings necessary to check the further spread of smallpox in those districts where it has become epidemic.

THE MINISTERIAL CHANGES.—The changes in the Government consequent on the retirement of Mr. Bright from the presidency of the Board of Trade were completed on Wednesday, and the final arrangement stands as follows. Our list gives the names according to the order in which each of the gentlemen succeeded his predecessor. Mr. Chichester Fortescue goes to the Board of Trade; Lord Hartington becomes Chief Secretary for Ireland; Mr. Monell, Postmaster-General; Mr. Knatchbull-Hopson, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies; Mr. Shaw-Lefevre, Under-Secretary for the Home Department; Mr. Arthur Peel, Secretary to the Board of Trade; Mr. Hilders, the only new addition to the Government, taking Mr. Peel's place as Secretary to the Poor-Law Board.

REPRESENTATION OF NORWICH.—The Liberals held a large meeting, on Wednesday evening, in St. Andrew's Hall. Mr. Tillett, who was received with much enthusiasm, addressed the meeting. It was resolved that a testimonial should be presented to the hon. gentleman in recognition of his long services to the advanced Liberal party of Norwich. It was also resolved that a committee should wait on Mr. J. J. Colman, and request him to offer himself as a candidate in the Liberal interest. There is little doubt that Mr. Colman will accede to the application. On the Conservative side Mr. Haddleton will probably again offer himself. The Conservatives had a torchlight procession to celebrate their success in unseating Mr. Tillett.

THE MARRIAGE OF PRINCESS LOUISE.—At Windsor Castle, during the absence of her Majesty the Queen and the Royal family in the Isle of Wight, considerable progress has been made with the preparations for the approaching nuptials of her Royal Highness Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorn. The Albert Memorial Chapel, at the eastern end of St. George's Chapel, which was once known as Cardinal Wolsey's Chapel, is being prepared for the ceremony by the employees of the Board of Works. The interior walls of the Albert Memorial Chapel are decorated with Baron Triqueti's beautiful marble picture, the Salvator Mundi, and other unique and costly adornment. For the purpose of the Royal wedding the interior of the building will be transformed into tastefully fitted-up assembly and retiring rooms, and the stone pavement is being covered with a boarded flooring. The Albert Memorial Chapel is only separated from the east end of St. George's Chapel by the covered entrance to the Cloisters, inhabited by the Dean and Canons of Windsor; and the marriage procession would therefore have to proceed but a short distance—in fact, but a few yards—to reach the rails in front of the altar. With the view of affording proper accommodation for the numerous and distinguished persons who may be expected to attend the marriage, the exact number of sittings in the choir has been ascertained by the Court officials. The marriage is expected to take place about the beginning of March, while the Queen is in residence at Windsor. The Princess's trousseau is being prepared by the different Court tradespeople at Windsor, London, and elsewhere.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN, accompanied by Princesses Louise and Beatrice and Prince Leopold and attended by the ladies and gentlemen of the Court, is expected to return to Windsor Castle about the 3rd of next month.

MR. CHILDERS is not well enough to return to London, as was generally expected. The right hon. gentleman is still in a weak state.

MRS. MOFFAT, wife of the Rev. Robert Moffat, the well-known African missionary, died, on Monday night, of bronchitis, at the age of seventy-six.

THE RIGHT HON. W. E. FORSTER, M.P., will address his constituents, in St. George's Hall, Bedford, on Monday, the 16th inst.

MR. JOHN MARTIN, Nationalist and Protestant, has been elected M.P. for the county of Meath, beating his opponent, a member of the Plunket family and a Catholic, by a large majority.

MR. ALEXANDER MUNRO, the sculptor, died, at Cannes, on the 1st inst. He had been in such bad health for some time that his recovery was generally regarded as hopeless.

MR. JUSTICE KEATINGE has declared Mr. Tillett not duly elected for Norwich, in consequence of the bribery of a voter named Yaxley by Mr. Lawer, acting under the orders of Mr. Ray. His Lordship said the coalition of Mr. Tillett with Sir W. Russell was a most unfortunate one; but Mr. Tillett must be held to be responsible for the acts of Ray, as agent of Sir W. Russell. Each party were ordered to pay their own costs.

MRS. EDWARD THOMAS, whose five-act drama, “The Wife's Tragedy,” was lately brought out at the Standard Theatre, is dead. Mrs. Thomas, who was the widow of a clergyman, was the author of several poems and other works.

A WRIT for an election in the borough of Newry, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Mr. Kirk, will be issued early next week.

THE ACOUSTIC PROPERTIES of the Royal Albert Hall of Arts and Sciences were tested on Saturday. The results were pronounced satisfactory.

PROFESSOR HUXLEY has been requested to accept the office of president of the Birmingham and Midland Institute for this year. The institute has of late greatly increased in popularity and usefulness. Classes for the teaching of chemistry and literary subjects have an attendance of over a thousand students. The council are about to erect a new and much larger lecture theatre.

THE MOST ELIGIBLE PORTION OF WOOLWICH DOCKYARD, it is probable, will shortly be transferred to the War Department. A further effort is to be made to dispose of the eastern end.

A METROPOLITAN POLICE-CONSTABLE was, on Tuesday, convicted before Mr. Woolrych of violation of duty. Part of his offence consisted in applying a term of reproach to a respectable married woman. He was fined £6.

THE NATIONAL REVENUE, from April 1 to Jan. 7, amounted to £47,229,831, as compared with £52,109,143 in the corresponding period of last year. The expenditure had been £54,790,008. The balance in the Bank of England on Saturday last was £309,292.

THE COMMITTEE for the PRESERVATION OF WANDSWORTH COMMON have, it is stated, at length succeeded in effecting an amicable arrangement with Earl Spencer which will secure the common for public recreation and enjoyment. To carry into effect this arrangement a bill will be submitted to Parliament next Session.

M. DE CHARETTE, the Legitimist partisan chief who received a bad flesh wound in the thigh at Loigny, and was taken prisoner, has contrived to escape to La Mans. M. Gambetta has given him a General's commission.

THE ELECTION OF A SCHOOL BOARD at Halifax has been accomplished without a contest. There were forty-six candidates, but an arrangement was entered into by which the number was reduced to eleven, the number of which the board is composed. One of the elected members is a Roman Catholic priest, the only clergyman on the board.

CAPTAIN D. S. OGILVY, formerly in the British service, but who accepted, a few weeks ago, a commission in the French army, was killed by a bullet in the forehead, when gallantly charging the enemy at the battle of Beaudette la Rolande. M. Gambetta is said to have held Captain Ogilvy in particular esteem.

THE MEAN TEMPERATURE of last week was 31·1, or 5·4 below the average of the same week in fifty years. The lowest range of the thermometer at Greenwich was on Sunday week, when it registered 19 deg. Fahrenheit.

AT A MEETING OF THE CAPTAIN RELIEF FUND COMMITTEE, held on Wednesday at the Mansion House, it was stated that the total amount received by the London Committee had been £4417. The draught of a letter, appealing for subscriptions throughout the kingdom, was adopted.

A LIEUTENANT IN THE NAVY was, on Wednesday, charged at the Westminster Police Court with having broken a street-lamp. His defence was that he had done it for a wager. The contractor for keeping the lamps in repair stated that 400 were smashed last week, and that in the first three days of the present week 300 others had shared a similar fate. The defendant was fined £4, and ordered to pay the damages and the costs.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LONDON DERRY QUARTER SESSIONS has delivered the first important decision under the Irish Land Act. A tenant of Sir Hervey Bruce, M.P., claimed compensation to the extent of £264, for alleged improvements effected on his holding. The landlord relied upon a set-off on account of bad cultivation and unskilful management. This, however, was not sustained, and judgment to a qualified extent was given for the tenant.

M. GLAIS BIZOIN, while on a visit to the camp of Conlie, recognised a mob of his district. He asked him what had been doing at the camp for the last month. “It would be difficult to say,” was the answer. M. Glais-Bizoin insisted. “Well,” said the soldier, at last, “we have changed shirts four times and generals-in-chief three times.” M. Glais-Bizoin continued his walk, without asking for further information.

SERGEANT J. E. DAVIES, of the 42nd Highlanders, has been found guilty, by a district court-martial, of delinquencies while in charge of the regimental canteen, to the amount of upwards of £140, and sentenced to be reduced to the rank of a private, to undergo imprisonment with hard labour for six months, and to forfeit all claim to past service.

THE “CITY PRESS” ALMANACK FOR 1871 is embellished with beautifully-engraved portraits of the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Owen, and Mr. Sheriff Jones; and contains the names and addresses of the Common Councilmen, list of the City Officers, and other interesting and important matters valuable to all citizens.

THE PRUSSIAN WAR OFFICE has adopted a new mode of rewarding military merit. Instead of showering orders and clasps upon the troops as hitherto, gallant deeds will be henceforth noted in the Gazette, every man who has distinguished himself being awarded a short paragraph commemorative of his conduct. The notices already published form a valuable contribution (in the opinion of the Berlin correspondent of the Times) to the history of the war.

SEVERAL CONVICTIONS FOR SMOKING ON THE METROPOLITAN RAILWAY have recently taken place. The directors lately received a communication from the Board of Trade reminding them of the exemption of the line from the operation of the Act of 1868, and intimating that if the company were unable to put a stop to the practice, the reason for relieving them of the necessity for providing smoking-compartments would appear no longer to exist.

THE GARIBOLDIAN OFFICERS who have been taken prisoners are to be sent to Rügenberg, and only the Frenchmen among them are to be allowed the privileges conceded to other persons of the same rank. The Italians, Spaniards, Greeks, and Poles will be lodged in the barracks and closely watched. They will, in other words, be treated as privates. A large number of prisoners are to be quartered in East Prussia.

THE SCHOONER HANDY, of Wexford, after striking on the Blackwater Bank, on the 10th inst., sprang a leak, and had to be run ashore at Cahore, in the county of Wexford, when her crew of five men were saved by the Sir George Bowles life-boat, belonging to the National Life-Boat Institution. The Wicklow life-boat of the society also went aloft in reply to signals of distress from a large ship laden with corn and bound to Dublin, and put a pilot on board, the master being ignorant of his exact position.

TWELVE THOUSAND ALSATIAN VOLUNTEERS, it is said, have joined the French armies since their country was taken possession of by the Germans, and others are daily coming on. They escape by night, they make their way over the mountains, they pass through Switzerland, weary, hungry, footsore, and even shoeless, to take their places in the ranks and to fight for France and for rescue from the rulers to whom they will never willingly submit. “How can we give them up?” a French gentleman said to a correspondent, the other day, when running over a list of killed and wounded, in which Alsatian names frequently occurred.

COLONEL TAILLANT, the Commandant of Phalsburg, writes the following letter to the *Liberté* of L'Hérault:—“The French journals have repeated, copying foreign papers, that Phalsburg has capitulated. Phalsburg has not capitulated. After having repulsed two attacks in force, endured four bombardments, when we saw that provisions were about to fail, we drowned our powder, broke the 11,000 guns in our soldiers' hands, and spiked our sixty-five cannon in the arsenal and broke up the carriages. On the day bread failed we opened our gates, informing the Prussians that we had destroyed all our material of war, and that we asked nothing. That is certainly not a capitulation.”

THE LOUNGER.

HERE is a curious instance of official blundering. I find it set forth at some length in a letter signed "A Conservative," and published in the *London and China Telegraph*. The Ellenborough, a well-known crazy old sailing-ship, was taken up at Hong-Kong to bring home about 170 military and other invalids. She left port on May 22 last; she arrived here late in December—thus taking seven months for the voyage, whilst the *Taeping*, also a sailing-ship, which left Macao on June 10, three weeks later, arrived about eleven weeks before the Ellenborough; and another ship, which left Hong-Kong a week after the Ellenborough, arrived at the mouth of the Channel about the time when the Ellenborough was leaving the Cape of Good Hope in October. The cost for freight and keep of these invalids was £150 a head, which is about one fifth more than the Peninsular and Oriental Company would have charged for bringing them home in half the time. And think of the discomfort of these invalids! The letter tells us that, "leaving China when the summer was well on, they had two months of the sweltering heat of the China Sea and Strait, another summer in the Atlantic tropics, and got home in a severe English winter."

One of the favourite panaceas of the old Whig doctors for Irish political evils was the payment of Roman Catholic priests by the State. The argument in its favour was short, and, to the afore-said Whig doctors, conclusive. "The priests," they said, "exercise enormous influence over the Irish Roman Catholic people; and it is always exercised in opposition to the State. Let the State pay the priests, and then they will exercise their influence in favour of the State." Hear how an Edinburgh Reviewer in 1842 puts the case:—"It is not merely," he says, "the priest with his sacred influence, but the native leader of the native race that would be won over by the conciliation of the clergy. One popular leader may die, and another may lose his power; and the alliance formed with a party now enjoying popular favour may be rendered useless to-morrow by some change in the tide of popular opinion. But a priesthood swaying the minds of the population by the influence of religion as well as those of kindred, neighbourhood, and community of feeling, yields the durable power that institutions surviving through successive generations continue to draw from sources of human feeling so universal and lasting." This was published about thirty years ago; and many an old Whig, as he read it, nodding approvingly his wise head the while, thought it the perfection of wisdom. But this policy was not approved by the people. Exeter Hall lashed itself into fury against the proposal to recognise and endow Antichrist. But, apart from this, the solid English people felt, rather than reasoned, as their way is, that to bribe a priesthood with State pay to keep down the people was not a creditable policy. "It may look very well, but I don't like it," was their answer. And so the Whig doctors could not get their panacea administered, and it is well for us they could not, for, had they succeeded, the disestablishment and disendowment of the Protestant State Church would have been an exceedingly difficult if not an impossible task. Moreover, we should have been now paying the price without receiving the article, for that priestly influence which was thought to be so "durable," so "universal," so "lasting," is—witness the election at Meath—gone. The great Whig doctors could not foresee—they never could see far beyond their noses—that superstitious reverence for priests was, like all superstitions, inevitably, inexorably doomed to pass away, as culture—not the mere culture of schools—in its quiet way should sap and ultimately destroy credulity.

Those angry thunder-clouds which have of late lowered over us in the political hemisphere, lurid, charged with lightning as they appeared to be, portentous to the safety of the country, or, at least, to her Majesty's Government, are, as the time for Parliament to meet approaches, rapidly disappearing—as the manner of such things in such cases is. And yet, to many of her Majesty's subjects how terrible they looked! The truth is, though, as most now begin to see, and many all along have seen, these were not thunder-clouds at all, but mere huge bubbles, blown up by the fiery breath of angry-partisan newspapers, ex-officials longing for office; or dupes—honest, perhaps, but weak and credulous. These things are not new. They frequently appear in the vacation, and generally, pricked by the Ithuriel spear of some Minister of the Crown, or able Investigator, disappear when Parliament is about to meet.

But let us drop from figures of speech to facts, or alleged facts—*simulacra*, things looking like facts. First, said the alarmists, we are liable to invasion at any moment. This was thought to be indisputable; and yet one finds it difficult to discover a Power now capable of invading us. France, in the celebrated "three panics," was the bugbear; but France is clearly no longer to be feared. Prussia? I have read and heard that as soon as Prussia shall have done with France "she will turn upon us;" but though Prussia has the finest army in the world, she has but a small navy—only six ironclads. Surely, then, we may decide at once that invasion by Prussia is not to be feared. Austria has a somewhat larger ironclad navy than Prussia; but still it is, when compared with ours, insignificant. Then comes Russia. Well, at once we may dismiss Russia by saying that, powerful as she is on land, her navy is quite inadequate to the task of invading England. We may, then, surely put aside this invasion theory for the present. "But we may have to go to war?" Granted. "And ought to be prepared for it?" Granted again. "And we are not in any way," as an alarmist in the journalistic line asserted the other day, "as an alarmist in the journalistic line asserted the other day. I met this gentleman in the streets, and this conversation occurred between us. 'Well,' said he, after we had reciprocated the compliments of the season, 'when are those fellows going out (meaning her Majesty's Ministers)? In March, I should say.' 'Why should they go out?' I asked. 'Why? Because the country won't stand them. Here we are almost certain to have war, and we have no stores for our ships, no army worth naming, no rifles, no guns, no gunpowder! We must have them out;' and then he rushed away. I looked after him, wondering how so small a head could carry so many foolish notions. But, as he only said what many believe, or did believe, it will be well to say a few words about these notions. First, then, as to naval stores. Observe, nobody now says that we have no navy. It is allowed now that we have the most powerful navy in the world. But then, of what use is that if the ships for want of stores cannot go to sea? Of no use, of course. But it is not true that there is a deficiency of stores. If an enemy's fleet were to appear in the Channel to-morrow, not a ship of ours, for want of stores, need stop in port. Second, not enough soldiers. Nothing can be more false. We have more soldiers than we have had since the great French war; but they need to be massed into an army; and this is our weak point. We have materials for an army, but not an army; and that must be, and will be, looked to. Of rifles we now know we have plenty. Mr. Cardwell has settled that matter and also the great gunpowder question; or if he did not, the *Times*, in a very able and elaborate article, has done it since. The fact is, all these alarms are very foolish. Our military force, though strong enough in numbers, is not so well organised as it ought to be. But, on the whole, at no time past, during a peace, were we so prepared as we are now for war. On this question of national defences, then, though we shall have much discussion in Parliament, the Ministry, I am persuaded, have nothing to fear.

Sir Denis le Marchant has, I hear, now formally resigned his office; and next Session Sir Thomas Erskine May, K.C.B., late First Clerk-Assistant, will appear at the table as Clerk of the House of Commons: salary, £2000 a year, with furnished house. Sir Thomas will be succeeded by Mr. Reginald Palgrave, who was

about a year ago appointed Second Clerk-Assistant. His salary will be £1500, with a furnished house. The place of Second Clerk-Assistant has been given to Mr. Milman, son of the late Dean Milman. Mr. Milman has for many years been a clerk in the Public Bill Office. The salary of the Second Clerk-Assistant is £1000 a year. Mr. Joseph Postlethwaite has retired from the Clerkship of the Journals; and is succeeded by Mr. Bull, of the Journal Office. Rumour has reported throughout the land that Mr. W. H. Gladstone, son of the Premier and M.P. for Whitby, was to be the Second Clerk-Assistant—and very absurd it was of Rumour so to report.

The new dining-rooms, two in number, but connected by a door, are nearly furnished. They are very spacious, airy, and light, with a pleasant outlook over the river. They occupy the sites of the old tea-room and the conference chamber. The old dining-rooms are to be, one a tea-room and the other a news-room. The cupboards of the members have been removed from the corridor leading to the Speaker's secretary's room to the corridor which leads from the lobby to the library. The former corridor is fitted up with shelves for the overflowings of the library.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES, ETC.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of the first of Mr. Ruskin's "Letters to the Workmen and Labourers of Great Britain." One is to appear every month; the author retains the entire control over the circulation; he does not advertise the letters; and, published in this pamphlet form, they are to be bought only of Mr. G. Allen, Heathfield Cottage, Keston, Kent, for sevenpence each; at least, that is the price of number one. Keston is, I believe, out Bromley way; at least, I know an old hostelry there named "Keston Mark." At any rate, the letters will be carefully read by me, and carefully noticed. These letters are inscribed "Fors Clavigera." One of your contemporaries has recollected that "clavigera" means club-bearer as well as key-bearer; but there is a good deal more of the scalpel than the club in this letter.

In *Temple Bar*, Mrs. Edwards, the author of "Archie Lovell," continues with felicitous gaiety and force her story of "Ought We to Visit Her?" In the same periodical "A Woman's Scream" is also very good.

By-the-way, Sir, and not quite *à propos de bottes* (though I shall not say *à propos* of what or of whom), I never pass a month without finding the name *Mæcenas* misspelt in about fifty places.

The *Gentleman's Annual*, being the New-Year's supplement of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, contains a good summary of what may be called the outcome of the year 1870 in politics, literature, science, agriculture, &c. But purely personal feeling breaks out in too many instances, both in the praise and blame, and in those evasive passages which are neither praise nor blame. One sentence I must quote. It is said, under the head of literature, that "Mr. So-and-so's poem (I need not quote the title) has made a substantial reputation for the author. His poems are tender and delicate, having all the quaint imagination of Swinburne without his overwhelming and often incomprehensible wordiness." I hope your readers will believe me when I say that the "poetry" of the writer here in question is absolutely beneath criticism—quite a joke, in its way. Unfortunately, too many people, when they come across a thing of this kind, will simply say, "Hah! opinions differ." But, as I have tried to explain before, there is a line up to or down to which opinions do not differ, though tastes do. One man may dislike Wordsworth and adore Scott; but no judge of poetry will say Wordsworth is a "duffer," who cannot write good verses, or will assert that "Lucy" is not a beautiful poem. Again, plenty of people dislike Mr. Tennyson—that is, they do not take to his vein of thought and feeling, and they find him thin and vague in expression. But no man of taste ever read the songs in "The Princess" and denied that the author was a poet. You will find readers who cannot relish any of the "Idylls" except the "Morte d'Arthur," yet everybody likes that. But we must draw the line somewhere; and when we find the apprehensiveness and the skill fall below a certain level, we, with more or less qualification, thrust the verse-maker out of the temple. Now and then it is found necessary to say, "This writer comes so near that we can hardly decide, and must let Time give the verdict." But there is an immense number of cases in which we can instantaneously say, "This maker of verses is a duffer, and will be a duffer all his days." One very easy guide for a critic is a writer's knowledge of the mechanism (as people call it) of his art. A John Clare or a Bloomfield will, from sheer want of education, make a mistake now and then; but still we see at a glance that the man knows the use of his tools. On the other hand, when we find a man of education blundering, "duffer" fashion, in the mechanical part of his business, we find enough to condemn him. Against bad criticism the general reader has, unfortunately, no security except in his own watchfulness. The *Edinburgh Review* had nothing but abuse for Byron's first volume. Wordsworth spoke kindly of it. Ten thousand people read the *Edinburgh*, and not ten heard Wordsworth's condemnation of its article on Byron.

The *Young Gentleman's Magazine* catches my eye only for two reasons. One of these is the picture of the ship "The Great Harry," a beautiful specimen of colour-printing by Messrs. Leighton Brothers. A finer example of the art I never saw—the delicate exactness of the work is surprising. The other matter that caught my eye is an article on "Dulcimers, and How to Make One." This is written with admirable completeness and clearness; and the magazine appears to be a capital one for boys.

The *People's Magazine* begins the new year with a strong number. It is a well-illustrated and beautifully-printed periodical; excellently adapted for such readers as the S. P. C. K. usually caters for.

The *St. James's* has changed its cover. It always contains good story-telling, and the present number is no exception; but some of the contents are "amateurish." This, by-the-way, is the fault of the *St. James's*. "Author and Actress" is full of clever things; but it contains material enough for ten novels. It is a particular in which one's best sagacity may easily be at fault, when there is as much merit in the writing as there is here; but this story, I should suppose, is the work of an inexperienced writer.

The *Leisure Hour* is not merely good: it is excellent. I would rather have the chief illustration than the photograph from which it is copied.

Messrs. Cassell and Co. have published *The Household Record and Annual Domestic Guide for 1871: a Register of Home Events and Transactions*. This contains a good deal of useful information and plenty of blank ruled paper, arranged like the index of a ledger. But should there not have been an almanack—and a little less of advertising?

That reminds me. *Leslie's Musical Annual*, published by the same house, contains some nice dance and song music—one very amusing fantasy, by the editor, entitled the "Asthmatic Cock of the Holmwood." The book is worth getting, if only for the steel-engraved frontispiece, from Millais, by Jeens. But it is a great oversight not to insert a blank leaf at the end. At present, while a young lady is playing Mr. Leslie's barn-door fantasy, her sweetheart, looking over her shoulder, sees, and knows that she sees, a huge page of staring advertisements about Whelpton's Pills, and Bragg's Charcoal Biscuits, and other such matters—which assuredly belong to the *facenda* of the drawing-room. The work is very pretty; but, as Othello says, "That is a fault." Fortunately, it is one easily mended.

In *Good Words*, M. De Betham-Edwards (whom we all know so well as one of the "elite of lady novelists") opens her story of "The Sylvestres" in a highly interesting manner. Nathaniel Hawthorne's "First Impressions of France and Italy" are also begun in this number. The paper on "Hugh Miller" is interesting—from the nature of the subject—and is, indeed, highly

intelligent; but, in spite of this writer's doctrine that "to the true man obstacles are no real evil," &c. (a doctrine most mournfully contradicted in poor Miller's whole career), it is impossible not to wish that Miller had "sat under" someone like Dr. Channing. The portrait speaks volumes. Poor fellow! As far as I can judge from these brief hints of his life, he appears to have been far too readily influenced on one or two particular sides, and to have lost his balance in trying to co-ordinate things which can never be co-ordinated. It is all very well to say, in fine generalities, that he did not see why such and such beliefs should interfere with such and such processes of personal growth. He did not clearly see why. But see he did, from first to last. His struggles were the struggles of one who saw. And, "true man" as he was, he was a man spoiled—and foiled—by those precious "obstacles."

Good Words for the Young appears in a greatly-improved form, and is as full of life and sweetness as ever. Lady Barker is very amusing, as usual.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

This has been a week of little plays. The smallest and the worst is a trifling sketch, called "The Rights of Woman," produced, for no one knows what reason, at the GLOBE. Miss Schiff, the authoress, has but a faint notion of what material is required for a small play. The Globe just at this moment requires a powerful and well-written comedy to atone for the sad faults of the present management. Out of perversity, no doubt, the Globe gives us a weak and ill-written little sketch, altogether unworthy of a theatre in London. Boys who are stage-struck have a dozen such amateurish efforts on their hands. Many sharp girls have, no doubt, plenty of such comediettas hidden away in their desks. In Miss Schiff's piece, construction and dialogue are alike as weak as water. The actors engaged had no chance at all.

A comedietta of a very different kind has been produced at the ROYALTY. "Dora's Device" is a pretty little play. The author modestly refused his name until the audience forced him from his retirement, and Mr. R. Reece came forward to receive the applause to which he was justly entitled. This is exactly the kind of piece which the Royalty requires. It suits a young company, and from it I surmise that Mr. Reece will work away again, and give us some more bright and clever plays. He has broken new ground very successfully. His piece is soundly written. There is no artificiality or trickiness about it. The writing is what one would expect from an educated gentleman; and, when some of the long speeches have been cut down a bit and it plays a little closer, "Dora's Device" will, I expect, be popular. Miss Henrietta Hodson, like a true artist, does not, because she is manageress, seize on the leading character. Miss Rachel Sanger plays the lead, and nicely too, and Miss Hodson, in her own line, could not be better. Her bright face, her sweet voice, and her charming manner are quite invaluable. But there is other good acting to be seen. A dirty "slavey" (this is really the word)—a lodging-house "Marchioness," with a warm heart—is one of the best-written characters, and, in its way, the best acted. Miss Fanny Leng I have often noticed as a clever little actress in burlesque; but here she gets a chance she has not had before, and shows us some acting quite refreshing, it is so clever. She has not very much to do, but I do not think the part could have been better played. Mr. A. Wood and Mr. Flockton were of service; and when a young lover is obtained who is presentable, the new play will be well worth seeing. I am delighted to see the Royalty doing so well. It has again a mistress who encourages all that is pleasant and pure.

Next week we are to have the long-promised "War," at the ST. JAMES'S; a comedy, by-the-by, which has already been played in Boston—I know not yet with what result. M. Henri Nertann, a French actor of some eminence, appears in it; and I trust that, at last, Mr. Robertson's ill-luck away from the Prince of Wales's will desert him.

"Joan of Arc" is also promised shortly at the QUEEN'S, in which Mrs. Rousby will appear as a fresh study for the photographers; and on Saturday next the experiment of opening a new theatre in Belgrave will be tried. The COURT Theatre is next door to the Sloane-street station, and I hear that places can be booked at any station on the Metropolitan Railway. Mr. W. S. Gilbert gives us an original comedy called "Under His Thumb;" and Mr. Frank Marshall opens the ball with a comedietta. The company boasts some strong names, and if the plays are good the theatre will do very well.

I have seen another excellent conjuror. Before the boys and girls go back to school let them be taken by all means to see M. Hermann, the prestidigitateur, at the EGYPTIAN HALL. He is both neat and quick, and the entertainment is well worth a visit.

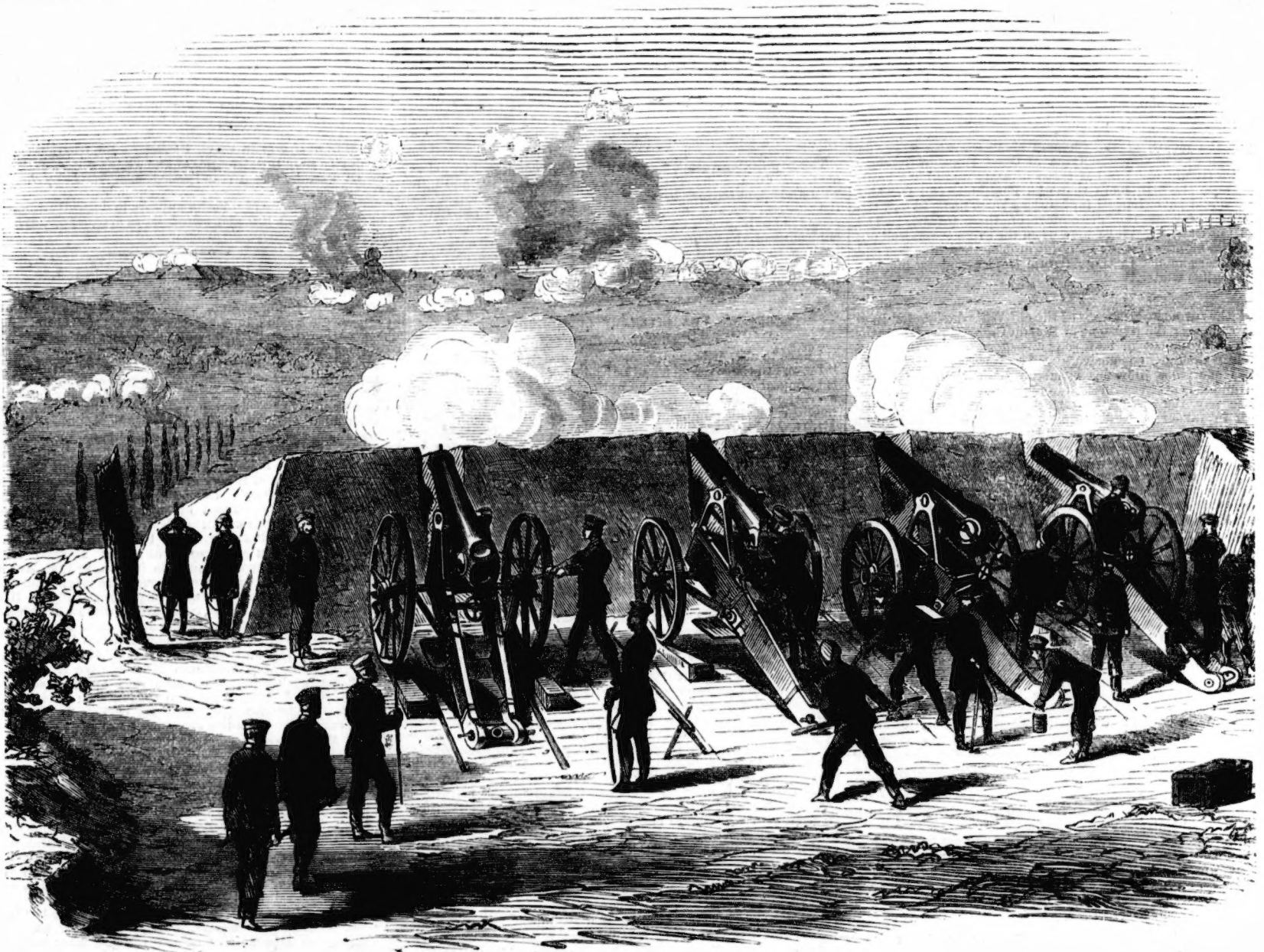
The evergreen "Ticket-of-Leave Man" has been revived at the HOLBORN, as, of course, it was a capital opportunity to catch Mr. Henry Neville, Miss Lydia Foote, Miss Hughes, and Mr. Stephens all together again. The favourite play must go. It is an excellent drama, and it is thoroughly well acted.

Mr. and Mrs. German Reed will produce a new entertainment, with a "novel" title, at the ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION, on Monday, the 23rd instant. It is called "A Sensation Novel," and the characters and combination of incidents in this class of literature have been ably satirised, I hear, by Mr. W. S. Gilbert, the author. The "Musical Notes" are by Mr. German Reed; the "Vignettes" by Mr. and Mrs. Reed, Miss Fanny Holland, Mr. Corney Grain, and Mr. Arthur Cecil; and the "Frontispiece" is by Mr. John O'Connor. The clever entertainment of "Ages Ago," which has run more than 350 nights, will be finally withdrawn next Saturday, the 21st inst.

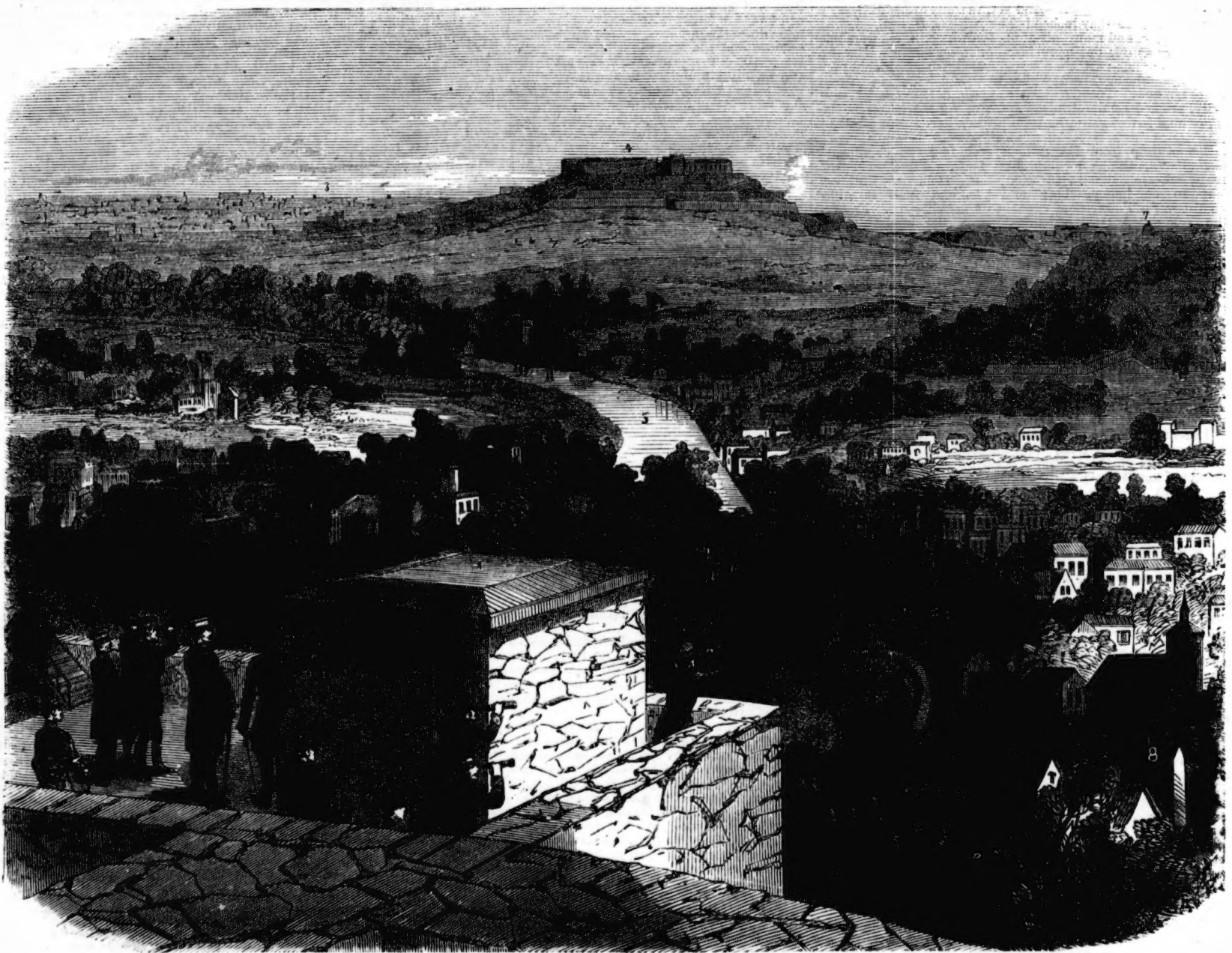
THE CRYSTAL PALACE PANTOMIME.

Mr. Henry B. Farnie seems a very prolific writer. Four pieces from his pen are being performed in London at the present time. He has a pantomime at the Crystal Palace, a burlesque at the Adelphi, a prose extravaganza at the Princess's, and a lyric legend at the Alhambra. An operetta called "The Crimson Scarf," the libretto by Mr. Farnie, was announced for production at Astley's on Boxing Night; but at the last moment the farce of "Englishmen in Paris" was substituted. Mr. Farnie's Crystal Palace pantomime, entitled "Gulliver; or, Harlequin Brooding-nag, the Fairy Enterprise, and the Demon Bow-Wow," I saw on Tuesday. The plot, when one reads the "book," is perfectly clear; but the piece as acted is simply incomprehensible. All pantomimes produced by Mr. E. T. Smith are edited by that gentleman. The author arranges his scenes: Mr. Smith disarranges them, and the piece is played in accordance with his own eccentric notions. The result is not satisfactory to the audience, and I can only surmise what the poor author's feelings must be. I have not yet forgotten how Mr. Gilbert's "Cock Robin" was mutilated by Mr. Smith. Gulliver is represented by Miss Caroline Parkes. There is not the slightest reason why the part should be played by a lady. The effect of the Liliput scene would be considerably increased if Gulliver's representative were a tall man. On Tuesday Miss Parkes was suffering from a sore throat; and of course was unable to sing. Indeed, there was very little singing, for Miss Annie Thirlwall, who plays Saccharissa, was almost as mute as Miss Parkes. The scenery generally is well painted, and the transformation has novelty to recommend it. There are two Clowns, Messrs. Harry Bolero and Adolph Rowella. Mr. Rowella's scene is, to my thinking, the funniest.

FORTY HOSTAGES lately arrested among the wealthiest inhabitants of Dijon and Gray were so well received by the inhabitants of Frankfurt, who subscribed to give them free lodgings and a good dinner, that the Prussians hastened them away from the town. As they passed through Cassel, Napoleon III. sent a patronising message from Wilhelmshöhe, to say he would be happy to see them; but, although among the number were several who had been coaxed into voting the plebiscite, the curt answer of one and all was that they did not wish to make his acquaintance.



A GERMAN BATTERY BEFORE PARIS.



1. Waterworks. 2. Village of Reuilly, with the Park of Malmaison. 3. Windmill Battery. 4. Fort Mont Valérien. 5. The Seine. 6. Village of Bougival. 7. Church of the Invalides. 8. Louviciennes.

MONT VALERIEN, PARIS, FROM THE WATERWORKS AT LOUVICIENNES.—SEE PAGE 29.



THE LAST POSITION CAPTURED BY GENERAL DUCROT ON THE PLATEAU OF VILLERS-STR-MARNE (FROM A SKETCH BY BALLOON POST).—SEE PAGE 23.

RECEPTION OF KING AMADEO IN MADRID.

KING AMADEO passed what may be called his first night in Spain on board the Numancia in Carthagena harbour, after visiting the arsenal and hospitals, and leaving a large sum of money for the charities. Before starting next morning he learnt the news of the death of Prim, and his grief knew no bounds. He slept on Sunday night in the old kingly palace at Aranjuez, and on Monday, about noon, the Royal train started for Madrid. Snow was falling all the morning, rendering the streets of Madrid almost impassable for horses, and completely so for carriages. At the station the Regent went to receive him. There were also present the Ministers, the Captain-General, the civil and military governors, the Ayuntamiento, the Council of State, the Admiralty, the judges and magistrates, commissions from the Cortes, from the army, and from other public bodies, with a vast and orderly crowd both inside and outside the station. A guard of honour of riflemen and artillery was waiting in the station, and the road to the Cortes was lined with troops and volunteers. An hour or two before the arrival of the Royal train, some commotion was caused in the city by the retirement of the bulk of the troops from the Puerta del Sol and other points to their barracks, and a rumour arose that the King had got frightened and turned back. It was industriously spread by those who wanted him to turn back. Of course no such reason existed. The fact was, the cold was so intense and the snow falling so fast that the troops were ordered into their barracks to change their parade dress for more suitable clothing, as the arrival of the King would be somewhat delayed by the snow on the lines. A few minutes before two the whistle of the Royal train was heard, and it speedily entered the station. It was preceded by a pilot engine and drawn by two locomotives. Prince Amadeus was warmly embraced by the Regent, who had a no less warm embrace for his great-hearted companion of the Revolution, the noble Topete. Loud cries from the assembled multitude of "Viva el Rey!" were speedily taken up by the crowds outside the station. The Prince wore the uniform of a Captain-General, with the Toison de Oro and the grand cross of Carlos III. The Regent represented to him that in consequence of the extremely slippery state of the streets he thought he had better commence his march in a carriage, but the Prince declined, saying he would prefer going on horseback. He also expressed a wish to be taken first to the Church of the Atocha, to see the remains of General Prim. This wish was gratified, and the young Prince was much moved when he contemplated the features of the man to whom he owed his crown, cold and stiff in death. What thoughts must have crossed his mind at that moment! The assassins' work lay before him, and he could not help being conscious that his own life lay at the mercy of the same cruel hands. It was enough to shake the fortitude of anyone, however strong-minded. On leaving the church the Prince remounted and rode through the streets to the Congreso. He was received by the crowds everywhere with vivas and manifestations of pleasure.

Inside the Congreso the railings of the President's tribune had been removed; on a carpet of cloth and gold, richly embroidered, were two tables, also covered with red and gold cloths. One of these served for the President. On the other were the Royal crown and sceptre. They had been raked up from the recess in which they had lain quiet so long. Their cushion had evidently been lost or stolen, and these valuable articles presented a somewhat comical appearance, served up as they were on a silver tray. Immediately behind the two tables were chairs, handsomely gilt, for the King, the Regent, and the secretaries. At the left of the tribune a platform had been erected for the Diplomatic Corps. Mr. and Mrs. Layard were the first to arrive. When this platform was full, as it speedily became—for there was not one Minister absent—it represented a most brilliant appearance. The deputies were all in proper trim—white gloves, &c. The proceedings commenced at two o'clock. The President declared the Session open "for the swearing of his Majesty the King." The Act of the last Session was read and approved; then the Act of the Session of Nov. 16, when the King was voted, and the Act of acceptance were read.

The President then called for the reading of the list of deputies who had been nominated to receive the King. Thirty-two names were read by the secretary. President: "The deputies whose names have just been read will be good enough to go out and fulfil their mission."

They retired, and there was a few moments' silence. Very soon one of the Cortes officials entered the door and cried out, "Su Majestad el Rey!" Instantly the House and galleries rose. The various Commissions entered first, followed by a large number of Generals and officers in full uniform. A buzz, a hush, and then a loud "Viva el Rey!" burst from those surrounding the door, and the stately figure of Spain's future ruler entered, followed by the Regent, Topete, and the rest of the Ministers. He walked deliberately to the Tribune, where he stood for an instant and looked round the assembly, who, all on foot except the President, returned his look with a "Viva el Rey!" At a sign from the President the Prince sat down on the chair at his right hand. The Regent occupied the one on his left. The Regent then came forward, the House still standing, and read a resignation of his powers, in the course of which he said: "I am not sorry we have passed through many difficulties, for they leave us a record of having fulfilled the duties imposed on us by the country. At last the end of our work has arrived, and the day for me to resign my powers. I abandon my high office with a tranquil conscience, serenely waiting the verdict of my country, and feeling beforehand recompensed for the anxieties I have gone through in it. May Heaven listen to my fervent prayers for the prosperity and the future of my country! If my wishes do not deceive me, I expect our fellow-citizens will preserve a grateful memory of this Assembly, whose work is to be unrolled in the reign to-day begun, and from which we all hope will flow the prosperity of our noble nation."

The secretary then read the Constitution of 1869, which took some time, from its great length. The President then said—"We are now about to administer the oaths." The King, the Regent, and all rose. The stillness was intense. President: "You accept and swear to keep, and to cause to be kept, the Constitution of 1869 of the Spanish nation, the reading of which you have just heard?" With his right hand on a copy of the Gospels, the King answered in a loud voice, and in perfect Spanish, though with an unmistakable Italian accent, "Si, juro!" (Yes, I swear!). President: "Do you swear to keep, and to cause to be kept, the laws of the kingdom?" In the same emphatic manner, the King replied, "Si, juro!" President: "If so you do, God will reward you! If not, He will demand it of you!" Then, turning to the Assembly, the President added, "The Cortes Constituyentes have witnessed and heard the acceptance and the oath the King has just taken to the Constitution and the laws of the Spanish nation. There therefore remains proclaimed King of Spain—Amadeo I. Spanish Constituyentes, 'Viva el Rey!' The whole Assembly replied, "Viva el Rey!" and repeated it several times. "Viva el Regente!" "Viva el Presidente!" "Viva la Libertad!" and "Viva la Memoria del General Prim!" were given in succession, while the King and the Regent left the hall.

The King next set out for the palace, but insisted, first of all, on paying a visit of condolence to the widow and orphans of General Prim. He was received at the Ministry of War by the Adjutants. When he entered the room where the Duchess and her children were seated he was much moved. He grasped her hand, but it was some time before he could speak. At last he managed, amid choking sobs, to address some words of consolation to her. She could not reply; but, seeing Topete standing behind, she flung herself into his arms and shed copious tears. The scene was deeply distressing. The Regent and everybody were completely overcome. After a few kind and loving words to the children, the King departed, and rode on horseback through the Calle Alcalá and Calle Mayor to the palace. All the way he was received with vivas and acclamations by the populace, whom

he saluted every instant in right Royal manner. Arrived at the palace, he was obliged to go out on the balcony, so vehement were the acclamations of the multitude and their desire to see him. He gave a "Viva España!" to which 10,000 throats replied "Viva el Rey!" After this he received various heads of departments and dined in private with his adjutants. In the evening he went to the house of the Regent, accompanied only by one adjutant, and paid the Duke and Duchess de la Torre an unexpected visit. When the carriage drew up to the palace gate he observed it had six horses. He ordered four to be taken out, remarking he had never been accustomed to more than two. Thus ended his first day in Madrid. The impression he created everywhere was most favourable.

LORD DERBY ON OUR NATIONAL DEFENCES.

LAST Saturday evening the Countess of Derby distributed the annual prizes to the volunteers of the Preston Artillery Corps, in the Guildhall of Preston. There was a large audience. After the prizes had been given out, Lord Derby, who was received with cheers, said:—All popular movements in a free country have a tendency to pass through various stages, in no one of which do they receive exactly a strict measure of justice. First they are pooh-poohed; then, when they are taken up enthusiastically by a large number of people, a great deal more is expected of them than in the nature of things can be realised; lastly, these expectations being in a certain measure disappointed, there is a reaction of feeling, and the real good they have done and are doing is scarcely rated at its true value. Now, the volunteer movement has not been altogether exempt from the operations of that general law. It has not had, indeed, much neglect to complain of, or much opposition to encounter. It hit exactly the popular feeling, and its success was greater and more rapid than anyone could have foreseen. We can remember when an officer of high rank in the regular army was denounced in the most violent terms for expressing, in rather imprudently plain language, his doubts as to the efficiency of the volunteer force. And now, I am afraid, the cold fit has succeeded to the hot fit. There is a tendency rather to pick holes than to oppose; and, instead of admiring the zeal and public spirit which leads 150,000 men to give up to unpaid national duty a great part of that leisure of which many of them have not too much, public opinion is quick and ready to note and to enlarge upon those deficiencies the existence of which, to some extent, is not to be denied, but which are more or less inseparable from the constitution of a volunteer force. The moral I draw is, don't set too much value on the casual criticism of the moment, whether it chance to be favourable or unfavourable. No man, and no institution, that are much before the public ever receive strict justice. Sometimes they get a good deal more than their due, sometimes a good deal less. We are going to have a very military Session—I won't say a warlike one, because I believe the outcry for war is confined to an exceedingly small section of the public. But there is no doubt that military organisation will be the subject of the day, and the arrangements which concern the volunteer army will be overhauled as well as others. I sincerely hope, whatever may be done or left undone, the volunteers will be allowed to remain as they are in two respects—first, in regard to the absence of any compulsion, direct or indirect, to enter the ranks; and, next, as to the practically gratuitous character of the service which they give. As to the more general subject of military defence, all I hope is—and it seems a modest expectation—that before we, the Legislature, go into that discussion our masters, the public, will know their own mind. A distinguished friend of mine said in the House of Commons years ago that armaments depend upon policy; and I will venture to expand his words, and to add that before you can reasonably make up your minds as to what sort of navy and army you are to have you must first have formed some definite idea as to what you wish or expect them to do. We should know clearly what we are about. Everybody is agreed that national defence ought to be made thoroughly effective. There is no question about that; but, if we mean only defence, let us say so, and stick to that—if we mean something more, as some of us do, let those who do so acknowledge the fact. The one sure way of coming to grief is not to be agreed, or to be certain as to what we mean, but to be looking one way and pulling another. One thing more, and I think it is an observation that will not hurt anybody's sensibilities. We are going, no doubt, into an increased expenditure—the public expects and wishes it—including, to the credit of their patriotism, that part of the public which pays income tax, and on whom, of course, the tax will fall; but let us recollect that, though in this country, with its highly-paid labour, we cannot have efficiency without expense, still, though the converse of that rule does not hold good, as our unfortunate French friends have seen during the last six months, it is possible to have a great deal of expense with very little efficiency. It is not a mere compliment to you that I say it—the expense which, of all outlay for military purposes, the rational and thinking part of the public least grudges is that which is required to bring up to the highest standard the scientific branches of the service. The one redeeming feature about war, as now carried on, when compared with the wars of earlier ages, is the great part which mechanical and scientific appliances play in it. Never has that fact come out more clearly than in the last six months. Never, I believe, has artillery been more largely employed, whether in sieges or in the field, or with more effect. And in that state of things, as applied to modern war generally, we have the best security for the triumph of civilisation over mere barbaric force. I do not undervalue moral agencies, or think that civilisation consists in the perfecting of mechanism; but the fact remains that courage—physical courage—belongs to most northern races, and is displayed in all stages of society; while mechanical skill is the slow growth of successive generations, and scientific resources are the exclusive possession of an educated community. I have said nothing to you on any question of military detail, because I am thoroughly aware how liable civilians are to make themselves absurd when they talk of what they have not professionally studied. But there can be no harm in putting one or two suggestions into the form of queries, not as propositions, but to be answered by those who are better able to judge than I am. I would ask whether anybody has considered how far this new arm, which has not yet got an English name, the mitrailleuse, is suitable to volunteer practice? It is light to handle, simple in construction, and peculiarly suited for defence. Another question: In the Navy there is a system of using field-guns for service on shore, which is excellently described by Admiral Paynter, a very distinguished naval officer, in words which I will read. He says: "These guns, which are Armstrong six and nine pounders, weighing from 3 cwt. to 6 cwt., are worked on a light field-carriage, carrying about twenty rounds of ammunition, and are drawn and worked with great facility by the men themselves, no horses being ever used; can be carried, if necessary, across hedges and ditches, and thus be placed in positions which it would be impossible, from the natural obstacles of the ground, for artillery moved by horses to approach." And he goes on, in an ably-written paper, to recommend the adoption of a similar system for volunteer artillery, not intended to supersede, but to supplement, the volunteer artillery now existing. Now, I don't venture to give an opinion on this scheme further than to say that on the face of it it appears to be simple, cheap, and likely to be efficient. There may, of course, be objections to it which I don't see. I would only ask whether it is not worth the attention of our military authorities and of the public? And, lastly, we have heard a great deal, and shall hear a great deal more, about strengthening the militia, and opinions are divided as to making service in that force compulsory. Now, the difficulty of the question lies in this:—If you make service obligatory upon everyone, you have an enormous waste of power; if you take only a few, and admit substitutes, the hardship falls exclusively on the poor. If, again, you take only a limited number, say, by lot, and admit no substitutes, the

burden is distributed in the most arbitrary and capricious manner. Every way the difficulty you have to deal with is a serious one. I would just ask whether it has occurred to anybody that a scheme of the following kind might work:—Assess every district in the country—take it by parishes, if you please—calling on each, according to its means, to contribute so many men to the militia or volunteers; or, in default of making up the number, to pay a certain sum in money for each man deficient. In that way you avoid the hardship of driving any individual into the ranks, while you put upon every local community a strong pressure to encourage recruiting for the defensive service of the country. Probably, any man willing to serve would have a purse made up for him by his neighbours. I don't throw out that hint as supposing it to be better than five hundred other similar schemes that might be devised; but it strikes me that, by adopting some such principle, you might get over a difficulty which will be more and more felt the more this subject is considered with a view to action.

MINISTERS AND THEIR CONSTITUENTS.

THE PREMIER.

LAST Saturday evening a meeting, convened by the Borough of Greenwich Advanced Liberal Association, was held at the Mitre Inn, to consider what steps should be taken in reference to a petition anonymously issued, and now in course of circulation for signature, calling on Mr. Gladstone to resign his seat for this borough. Mr. Thomas Horton, who presided, called attention to the dubious and wily wording of the requisition, which was so drawn up as to profess to emanate from the Liberal party—the electors by whom Mr. Gladstone was returned. The words, "We respectfully, yet firmly, demand the restoration of our abused trust," among others, were likely to convey this impression, and hence no time ought to be lost in exposing the origin of this mischievous document, which it was now clearly ascertained had emanated from the opponents of Mr. Gladstone and the Liberal cause. Mr. Jeffries said the requisition, worded as it was, was calculated to deceive a great many, and every effort was now being made to obtain the signatures of Mr. Gladstone's supporters to it, so as to give it a colouring, and make it appear as though all parties were dissatisfied. There was a strong movement now afoot in order to try and influence the working men against him by a representation that he had been the means of closing the dockyards, and thus appealing to their selfish interests in the matter, and hence it was very advisable that all should be made acquainted with the manner in which this resolution had been got up. Mr. Pegg moved the first resolution, "That while we are of opinion that there is an apparent want of sympathy on the part of Mr. Gladstone towards the electors of this borough, by his refusing on various occasions to meet his constituents in public meetings, we have accepted as a justification the great pressure of official duties since the dissolution of Parliament. We regret to know that a small Tory clique in the constituency have drawn up a requisition asking the Premier to resign his seat; we unanimously protest against the spirit of this document, being fully persuaded that its promoters only wish to destroy the harmony now happily existing among all shades of Liberals in this borough." Mr. Hay seconded the resolution. Mr. Allen said that whatever might be the dissatisfaction among some as to the closing of the dockyards, they had to look at the matter in a cosmopolitan point of view, and not in a selfish one—as a matter affecting the taxation of twenty millions of people instead of the local interests of the people of Greenwich. He, however, believed there was a wider cause of dissatisfaction against Mr. Gladstone, and that was his non-recognition of the French Republic. Mr. Matthews said that, having served his time in the dockyards, and having had twenty years' experience in them, he believed that the closing of them would not only be a benefit to the country but to the workmen themselves. The extravagance, waste, and mismanagement every year were enormous; and he was quite sure that soon things would find their level. There would be plenty of work from private firms, and the employees and the country generally would benefit by the change. He hoped, therefore, that the working classes would not be deluded by the movement now being got up for mere party and political purposes. Mr. James Phillips said he had hitherto held Conservative views, and had taken an active part in their cause; but he must say that, having lately watched with regret their personal attacks on the Premier, and knowing the course pursued by them in reference to this requisition, he must not only denounce their acts but renounce their party, and give in his adherence to more Liberal principles. The meeting was afterwards addressed by Mr. Hake, Mr. Wellbrook, and others, in support of the resolution. On its being put, it was carried by a large majority. The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

A crowded meeting was held in the Lecture Hall, Greenwich, on Monday, the object of which, as stated by the placards, was to call upon Mr. Gladstone to resign his seat for that borough. Long before the hour for commencing the hall became densely packed with partisans and opponents of the right hon. gentleman, and there was so much uproar that it was found difficult to appoint a chairman. This, however, was done; but the speakers who attempted to propose resolutions against Mr. Gladstone could not make themselves heard. After several free fights the chairman was disestablished and his seat captured. Mr. Baxter Langley then succeeded in getting a hearing for a few minutes, and proposed a resolution of confidence in Mr. Gladstone, which was put to the meeting by Dr. Bennett, who, on about twenty hands being held up for it, declared it carried.

MR. CHICHESTER FORTESCUE.

Mr. C. Fortescue has issued an address to the electors of Louth (not soliciting re-election, for that is unnecessary), but respectfully informing them of his change of office. He reminds them that while holding the post of Chief Secretary for Ireland he was fortunate enough to take a large part in the passing of the great measures which signalled the first two years of Mr. Gladstone's Administration. In accepting another sphere of labour they may be assured that he does not abandon the duty still incumbent on him as an Irish member of the Government—that of contributing his best efforts to the successful prosecution of the Ministerial policy, which he is more than ever convinced will work, and is working, through a thousand channels for the permanent welfare of his countrymen.

MR. MONSELL.

Mr. Monsell has been presented with an address at Rathkeale, in which his appointment to a higher office in the Ministry was regarded as an indication that the foreign policy of the Government would not be hostile to the head of the Catholic Church. The right hon. gentleman, in his reply, reminded his hearers that their views in all cases could not be fully carried out, because some deference must be paid to the general public opinion of the British nation. But he would endeavour to secure for Irish Catholic sentiment that just influence to which it was entitled.

THE FLYING SQUADRON.—The new flying squadron, under the command of Rear-Admiral Beauchamp Seymour, C.B., took its departure from Plymouth Sound, on Tuesday, under the most favourable auspices. It is intended that the ships shall, if possible, visit the chief, if not all, of our West India colonies; but, naturally, the length of their absence will depend upon the political state of Europe, as the Admiral's orders are that he shall keep himself as much as possible within telegraphic communication with Whitehall. The trip may be long or short, but the officers and men cannot fail to be improved by the practical experience which they will acquire pending its duration.

THE RELEASED FENIANS.—O'Donovan Rossa, Devoy, M'Clure, Shaw, and O'Connell, five convicted Fenians, have had their various sentences of imprisonment remitted, on condition of their leaving and never returning to England. The Government pay their fares as first-class passengers to New York, giving them an ample outfit of clothes and necessities, besides £5 each on landing. Rossa and M'Clure were sentenced to twenty years, Devoy to five years, and O'Connell to four years' imprisonment. The Fenians left Liverpool last Saturday, by the Cunard mail steam-ship Cuba, and on the vessel calling at Queenstown there was a trifling demonstration.

THE WAR.

THE SIEGE OF PARIS.

THE bombardment of the Paris forts, if not of Paris itself, has been continued with considerable vigour for the past week. Several of the forts were reported by the Germans to be "silenced," but they found tongue again, and reopened fire with as much determination as before. Still it is believed that the fire of the besiegers is beginning to tell, though no material damage has been done to the forts, and even some of the earthen batteries between the forts still fire occasionally. The Germans cannot occupy Mount Avron on account of the heavy fire poured upon it. The French battery at Villejuif has been apparently silenced, but numerous fresh batteries between the forts on the east side have been lately constructed by the besieged. As to any attempt to capture a fort, that is, at present, out of the question, for no storming column could live in passing over the space intervening between the besiegers' batteries and the forts, there being no parallels within anything like a reasonable distance. The losses of the Germans cannot be ascertained, but we glean enough from the letters of the different correspondents at Versailles and other places round Paris to feel certain that, though perhaps comparatively small, they are substantial. The superior excellence of aim of the German gunners is not to be altogether attributed to their greater skill, but in some measure to the fact that for months past they have been able to study their ranges and look at the objects of their present fire, while the French only ascertained the position of the German batteries when they opened fire.

INSIDE PARIS.

By a balloon which quitted Paris on the night of Tuesday we have official despatches to the Bordeaux Government, from which we learn that many shells have fallen in the neighbourhood of the Panthéon, in the Ninth Section, and in the Quartier St. Jacques. Of the balls which fell during one night, more than thirty are reported to be of the largest calibre; and the total number coming into the interior of the whole city in the same night was not fewer than 2000. Some women and children, the despatch continues, were killed and wounded; the Hospice de la Pitié was struck, one woman was killed, and the attendants were compelled to remove the wounded from one ward to the cellars; the Val de Grace was also bombarded; and, the writer of the despatch says, "the enemy seems to select hospitals for his fire, thus outraging all the rules of war and of humanity." Probably the author has somewhat laboured for an effect against the enemy in his compilation; but, if his "exact information" be correct, it is simply needless for the Germans to affirm that the city is bombarded, if at all, only by mistake or accident. Two thousand bombs in a night, or even 200, are far more than the accurate aim of the German artilleryists would permit to overshoot the forts and fall unintended among the streets and hospitals of Paris. Numerous engagements, of which the King of Prussia says nothing, are stated by the French despatches to have taken place on the 9th towards Malmaison; and on the 10th the Germans are said to have renewed, for the fourth time, an attack against Maison Crochard, to the left of Neuilly, on the south-west of the city, being repulsed, however, with serious loss. It would appear from this statement that no inconsiderable force of French is still outside Mont Valérien.

OPERATIONS IN THE WEST.

The Red Prince appears not to have waited for the advance of General Chanzy, but to have determined to seek him at Le Mans; and some fighting, generally to the advantage of the Germans, has taken place in that region. According to reports from Versailles, Chanzy was driven back in a series of victorious engagements to within one mile of Le Mans, the victors capturing one cannon, three mitrailleurs, and 2000 prisoners. The mile here mentioned, of course, is a German mile, between four and five English; and the curt words of the despatch indicate a position behind the river Huise, which, flowing south-westward from Nogent-le-Rotrou, about seven miles from Le Mans, makes a sweep to the northward, and returns in a deep curve almost to the southward, and then again to the westward, to the point at which it joins the Sarthe, about two English miles below Le Mans. Behind the Huise, in the quasi-peninsula between it and the Sarthe, rise some steep heights, offering a good defensive position; and across those heights, or across the river which flows at their feet, pass all the roads from the north-east, the east, and the south, which centre at Le Mans. By at least three or four of those roads—from Bellême and Nogent-le-Rotrou on the French left, from Vendôme and St. Calais on their centre, and from Tours by La Chartre and Château-de-Loir on their right—the Germans are advancing on Le Mans. The particulars of Tuesday's contest are yet too meagre to enable us to appreciate the real importance of the day's work; but it may safely be assumed that the combats were little more serious than affairs of rearguard, and that the real battle is yet to be fought at the passage of the Huise, west of the town, or of the Sarthe, below the town. If the Red Prince, indeed, intended to outflank or envelop Chanzy's force, we might have expected to hear of his columns at points wider apart.

CHANZY DEFEATED.

The Grand Duke of Mecklenburg telegraphed as follows to the Grand Duchess on Wednesday:—"After crossing the rivulet L'Huise, north of Le Mans, yesterday, we fought to-day a hotly-contested but victorious engagement at Lombrou and La Chapelle. Nearly 10,000 prisoners have been captured. Our loss is inconsiderable. We shall advance to-morrow on Le Mans."

IN THE NORTH.

The fight reported last week between the troops of Generals Faidherbe and Manteuffel, near Bapaume, appears to have been another of those drawn combats so common between those commanders. Both claim the victory; from which fact we may conclude, perhaps, that there was not much of a victory to claim. General Faidherbe, however, fell back upon Arras after the fighting at Bapaume to obtain shelter and supplies for his troops, as he tells us, and unmolested by the Germans. News received from this quarter on Thursday was to the effect that Faidherbe had advanced his headquarters beyond Boileux, in the direction of Bapaume—probably taking ground to his own left beyond the high road from Arras to the south. It is added that heavy musketry-firing was heard during great part of Wednesday in the direction of Bapaume; and it is not at all improbable that a battle, in which the Germans were the assailants, was really fought somewhere within the quadrilateral the angles of which are marked by Arras and Douai on the north, and Bapaume and Cambrai on the south. On the 11th (Wednesday), General Faidherbe reported as follows:—"General Derroja's division made a reconnaissance this morning, and surprised the rear guard of the Prussian army at Bohagnies and Sapignies, killing and wounding about thirty, and capturing fifty-nine men and twelve horses. On our side there was not a man wounded. General Derroja's advanced guard has driven the last Prussians out of Bapaume, and our troops are now established there."

The capitulation of Peronne, with 3000 prisoners, which took place on Tuesday, was a foregone conclusion. The little marsh-surrounded stronghold, which in its day has been stormed by British soldiers, after Waterloo, opens to the Germans the road direct from Paris on the south and Laon on the south-east, and thus renders them independent of the Amiens route, the necessity of maintaining which has hitherto somewhat hampered their action.

IN THE EAST.

General Bourbaki appears to have gone to the eastern districts to co-operate with Generals Cremer and Garibaldi against General Werder, with a view, probably, of raising the siege of Belfort, and interrupting the communications of the Germans with home. Some fighting has taken place, the result here, as elsewhere, being disputed. Indeed, that seems to be a regular thing now, which is perhaps so far a favourable sign for the French, seeing that the

early successes of the Germans were so decided as to admit of no question. The King of Prussia persists in asserting that Von Werder has gained a victory, the number of prisoners being swollen to 800. The French are equally obstinate, Bourbaki telegraphing, apparently on the 10th, that the preceding night had been occupied in driving the Prussians from "the houses in Vittersexelles, which they still disputed." On the morning of the 10th, according to Bourbaki, the enemy evacuated the town, but lost some prisoners in the operation. The battle raged, apparently, for many hours, and at least two French corps were engaged, yet the Prussians assert that Von Werder's loss was only about 200 men.

Danjoutin, to the south of Belfort, has been stormed by the Germans, who captured two staff officers, sixteen other officers, and more than 700 unwounded prisoners.

We hear that a large Army of the East is about to be formed. It is to consist of Von Werder's, Zastrow's, and other troops, and that General Manteuffel is to be the commander-in-chief. General Manteuffel is to support Von Werder, and press on to the occupation of Lyons. He leaves Von Goeben to keep General Faidherbe in check and the north of France in order, and is confident that Von Goeben is quite strong enough for these duties.

Advices from Dijon to the 8th announce an engagement at Levigny, near Semur. On the 7th a Prussian reconnaissance of 500 men was repulsed, and retreated on the Montbard road with considerable loss. A despatch of the *Siecle* says that Ricciotti Garibaldi commanded in this affair. He had two companies, with which he attacked the Prussians. When the Germans first entered Dijon, some months ago, the municipality was required to deposit £20,000 in the hands of the German military authorities as security for the good behaviour of the population, but at the entreaty of the Mayor, who described the distressed condition of the working population, the amount was reduced to £12,000. The latter sum was returned to the Mayor the week before last by General Werder, on his departure, with a letter complimenting the inhabitants on their exemplary conduct.

IN NORMANDY.

General Roy has been beaten in Normandy. On the 7th 10,000 Germans, principally from Rouen, crossed the Seine by means of pontoon-bridges near Jumièges, defeated the corps of General Roy, and occupied Bourgarchard and Bourgheroulde. They also threatened Pont Audemar. Bourgarchard is on the Pont Audemar road, and Bourgheroulde is on the Lisieux road. On the other side of the Seine General Peltingas has also fallen back, apparently to within a few miles of Havre, and the town may be said to have been, in military parlance, affronted on the 6th by a body of 200 Prussians, who threw shells into the village of Gaienneville. From Havre it is reported that the French advanced posts before that town were attacked by a small German force on Tuesday morning; but the affair seems to have been on the smallest of scales. A new commander has been given to the French army operating before Havre.

OUTPOST DUTY IN THE PRUSSIAN ARMY.

CERTAIN rules with regard to outpost duties are laid down for the general guidance of the Prussian army, but in this, as in all other duties in the field, officers are given to understand that all regulations are subject to modification according to circumstances. No officer is allowed to plead that he has acted according to printed or written instructions. Every man who holds a commission in the Prussian army is expected to be intelligent, and to use his judgment on all occasions. Readers must, therefore, guard themselves against supposing that the account about to be given of the Prussian system of outpost and patrol duties is invariable. On the contrary, any officer who acted according to the letter instead of the spirit of the instructions would be considered unworthy of his place in the service.

All the three arms, cavalry, infantry, and artillery, are used for outpost duties, according to circumstances: cavalry for the most advanced accessible places, especially on roads and where the country is flat, with few obstacles, and in the daytime; infantry for nearer positions, for broken ground, and for night work; artillery only when special points are to be defended for a while, such as defiles, &c., and to protect water communications. The outposts are in most cases to be furnished by the advanced and rear guards.

Two main objects are to be sought by means of outposts:—First, the army is to be kept from surprise; secondly, information is to be acquired regarding the movements and position of the enemy. The first is attained by occupying a chain of posts near the opposing army, and defending them, if necessary, long enough to ensure to the main body time to prepare for the onset. As a general rule, the positions held by outposts are not expected to resist permanently an attack in force. Another general rule is that the smaller bodies are to be expected to be sacrificed, and even to sacrifice themselves, for the safety of the larger.

The general command of the outposts is given to one officer, unless the ground to be covered is extensive, when two or more may be appointed, each having charge of a section of the line. In this case they act independently, but always carefully remembering the object to be attained. We will suppose all to be under one officer. He divides his force into three distinct parts:—The first is to be formed into pickets, each under a junior officer; the second into reserves for the pickets; the third is the main body of the outposts. In the Prussian army the officer in command of the whole acts, as a rule, on his own judgment as to the position of his outpost force. It is very rare indeed for him to receive any directions. He decides what is to be the number of pickets by day and night, and what the strength of the reserves. He appoints an officer to each picket, and gives him general instructions, deputed to him the duty of arranging the various links of the chain which is to be drawn in front of the position. As soon as the pickets are distributed and the men posted, he visits the outer line and orders any changes to be made which seem to him advisable, giving, at the same time, more detailed instructions to the officers in charge. Finally, he takes care to place himself in communication with all the pickets by means of reports and orderlies. He learns from the front any intelligence there may be of the enemy, and if there is none, sends out, at daybreak, strong patrols to reconnoitre, so as, in any case, not to be without information. Every important piece of news is sent back to the force encamped in rear of him.

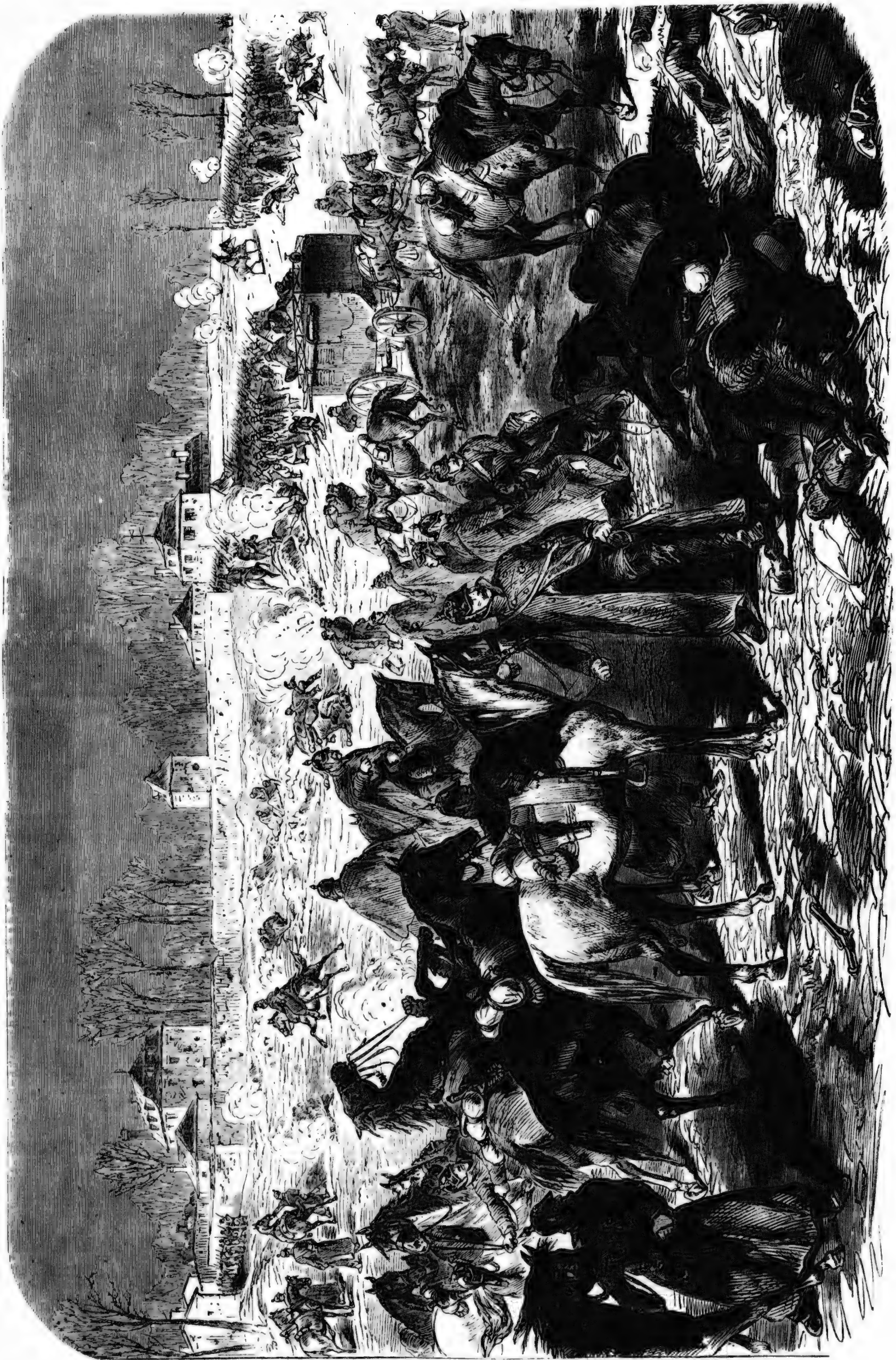
The officer commanding each picket marches his men to the ground assigned to him, and then posts his sentries rapidly, and according to his judgment. He takes care not to lose connection with the pickets near to him, decides rapidly upon the position to be occupied by each man, and then sends or leads them forward to their places, taking care that they are concealed from the enemy, but visible to their supports. In some cases they cannot but be hidden from the supports, and then connection is kept up by means of signalmen. He economises his men as much as possible, having regard to the nature of the ground and the necessity of leaving every place so guarded that not a cat could pass through unobserved. No strangers are allowed, on any pretext, to take a short cut across the fields. The road only is open to them, and upon it is placed a double sentry, behind whom is an examining party, consisting of four men under the charge of an intelligent non-commissioned officer. The duty of this party is to examine and arrest or turn back all persons attempting to pass, unless other instructions have been given. Small posts of about half a dozen men may be placed as required either in front of or behind the chain of sentries. The sentries have to watch with the utmost care and vigilance any movements of the enemy; they must not quit their posts nor relax their attention for a single instant. Ordinary sentries in time of peace are often seen sheltered in their boxes when the wind is chilly or the rain falls; but the man on outpost duty cannot indulge in such luxuriousness, for the whole safety of the army depends upon his watchfulness.

The supports are placed by the officer of the picket in a central position behind the chain of sentries. The distance should be about 400 paces in rear, if the pickets are composed of infantry; if cavalry are watching, the supports may be 1200 paces. Here, again, individual intelligence and military education are required for the choice of the post, which should be under cover, and as much as possible capable of defence. It is for such purposes as these that the Germans say cavalry must be armed with far-shooting firearms. The supports are divided by the officer into reliefs for the sentries and patrols, and he gives them certain instructions, the chief among which are—Perfect silence, no shouts, and no compliments. They are in the presence of the enemy, and the only motion to be made with the weapon is to present it at the breast of anyone that may approach them without the password. On the slightest alarm, to arms instantly, and cavalry to the saddle. Perhaps a fire may be lighted, perhaps not—never without permission of the officer. The same rule applies to smoking. The men rest by reliefs, and even the horses may not be all fed at the same time. At night all are to be on the alert, and during the hours of darkness neither may a man be relieved of his knapsack nor a horse of his saddle. When the officer has stationed his men, he reports their position to the commander of the outposts, illustrating their position, if he can, by a pencil sketch. Thenceforth he is responsible for all that happens, and he must endeavour, by means of patrols, to ascertain what the enemy is about. At night he remains with the support, listening intently for every sound, and interpreting it according to his military experience. He may not fall back on the plea that his sentries have failed in their business; for it is his own bounden duty to be fully acquainted with all that goes on in front of his support. He keeps a patrol always at hand, and, if he hears a shot, sends the patrol instantly to discover the cause. If there be a hill, a tower, or a lone tree near him, he must place a man or two there to scan the surrounding country. If attacked, his duty is to resist as long as possible, so as to gain time for the troops in the rear to prepare themselves. A volley should be fired to give the alarm, and then the bayonet is to be used, especially at night, when rifles are of little avail. The sentries are placed in pairs, so as to keep each other awake, and because, if one man be bayoneted suddenly, the other may have time to give the alarm. If they see anything unusual, one of them goes back and reports to the officer. Round the wakeful line pass frequently visiting patrols of two men, and reconnoitring patrols of two or three men steal cautiously about in front of the sentries, studying the ground and picking up every atom of intelligence, which goes back to the officer, to be welded by him into a whole. They must avoid fighting; their duty is only to get news. Consider what intelligence all this requires, and then say whether a soldier can be over-educated.

Occasionally a patrol is sent in force to ward off the enemy's patrols, and surprise, if possible, one of his posts. The men creep silently along, taking advantage of every tree, bush, or hollow, listening for their lives, and crouching like tigers till the moment comes for the deadly spring. Then, no firing. To the bayonet and butt-end!

Behind all the pickets with their supports are the reserves, not too far for sudden help, placed at cross-roads or wherever they may be most able to reach quickly their comrades in danger. They are hidden from sight as much as possible. Behind the reserves is the main body of the outposts, under the chief commander. It has a quarter guard and a rear guard, which furnish look-out sentries. The infantry pile arms, but may not take off their accoutrements. The horses of the cavalry remain saddled, those of the artillery harnessed. The main body is placed so as to be able to form a line of battle to the front or full on the enemy's flank, according to circumstances. All cooking, feeding, and watering of horses must be done by day, and on the slightest alarm the force must be ready to move off in a few seconds. In front and rear of every force in the field there is an organisation like one of those sea creatures which, itself lying quiet and hidden as much as possible, permeates all the water in front and around it with never-resting delicate filaments, using them to sweep small prey into its insatiable mouth or to warn of the approach of danger. Instinct teaches the animal, but man's instincts are superseded by a higher faculty—reason. As the animal practices its method of guarding itself and obtaining food every day of its life, so must the soldier practise his art. But how? The world cannot be perpetually at war in order that soldiers may learn their trade. True, but the soldier may practise in peace everything except actual slaying which he will have to perform in war. He can first learn rules, and then apply them in camps and manœuvres. Last year a number of English officers went, by invitation, to Germany, and saw the Prussians practising war. Some of them, perhaps, forgetful of the fact that 350,000 men cannot be provided with luxuries at half the cost of our army, came away wondering how an army could be called efficient when its appointments are so indifferently polished. Some of them appreciated the great truth that those men and their generals were not at play, but working with the stern earnestness springing from the certainty that before long those hosts would have to fight for unity of Fatherland and supremacy in Europe. There were mistakes made during the manœuvres, and many an action could be seen which would have been impossible in war. But the mistakes were pointed out and corrected, and the impossibilities detected by umpires, whose business it was to keep the sham battles as nearly like real ones as possible. Every corps there had its provision-trains, its etappen department, and its outposts; every officer and man was set to show his knowledge and intelligence. The same system has been in operation for years. This is the Prussian system, and the secret of their success is plain. Individual intelligence, individual responsibility. Each officer, and man too, from the highest to the lowest, has his place and his duties, and is trusted to perform them with ability. And one more truth. Every door to advancement in the Prussian service is to be unlocked by intelligence alone.—*Military Correspondent of the "Times."*

IS THE INCOME TAX TO BE INCREASED?—In consequence of the apprehensions of many persons who imagine (strange to say) that Great Britain is now in a specially critical position because the two great Powers, from which her chief dangers of war might have arisen, are both more exhausted with half a year's terrible drain upon their resources of men and means than they have been for centuries, it is quite possible that hasty measures of increased national "defence" may be so urged as to entail a further increase of taxation upon the already overburdened ratepayers; and in particular the unequal imposition of the income tax may be not improbably rendered still more oppressive. But, even if the fears of foreign invasion were warranted by the circumstances (although the very reverse is the fact), the taxpayers should now demand a strict account of the already vast sums which are presumed to be appropriated to "defensive" purposes. Armies of pensioned (and in many cases merely sinecure) military officers and hundreds of naval officials who never go to sea, but draw large salaries nevertheless—surely these, and such as these, are not necessary for "defensive" outlay. Yet it is in this way that vast sums of the people's money are annually squandered, and Mr. Gladstone is roundly abused by some because he has made a small reduction in the number of these supernumeraries. And now, of all times, advantage is being taken of the exhaustion of both Prussia and France to cry out, "Great Britain in danger!" The large number of military and naval officers in both Houses of Parliament, with their numerous influential connections there and outside, may not improbably be able to compel the Government to take a retrograde step and add future waste to present extravagance. At a time when both France and Prussia are almost gasping with exhaustion and calling out their last reserves, and when the United States, with a population of 40,000,000, is reducing her army to 50,000, Great Britain is to be called upon for heavier burdens. Yet of her present annual outlay of £69,000,000, only £17,000,000 are expended on the civil list, general home purposes, and the collection of the revenue. All the remaining £52,000,000 is devoted to the costs of past or prospective war—the interest of the National Debt being £27,000,000, and the outlay on Army, Navy, and fortifications being £25,000,000. Yet now, forsooth, we are told that our "defensive" taxation is not nearly enough, and must be largely increased! And increased it will be if those who only have to pay (and not share in the receipts) do not influence their representatives accordingly.



WUSTENBLIG AND SAXON TROOPS UNDER FIRE NEAR VILLIERS-SUR-MARNE.

NEW-YEAR'S EVE BEFORE PARIS.

We have already illustrated and described Christmas in the camp before Paris, and we this week publish an Engraving portraying the quarters at a German main guard on New-Year's Eve. How different are the aspects presented by the various occupants of that guard-room! and how heterogeneous are those occupants themselves! "Misery makes one acquainted with strange bedfellows;" and strange, indeed, are the persons who have assembled here for shelter from the cold without. In one corner, with a strong light thrown upon them, is a group of careless soldiers, bottle on table and cards in hand, engaged in an apparently exciting game. Near them, to the left, are some French gamins, who evidently think only of making the best of circumstances, and care but little for country or patriotism, victory or defeat. In the centre and on the right are drowsy warriors, intent on gaining a little rest during a temporary cessation of duty at the "fore-posts;" while in the foreground are some French prisoners, wounded seemingly; and a woman nursing a child—sick, perhaps, poor thing! Conspicuous in the midst is a "child of Israel," most cosmopolitan of peoples, who has probably been doing a little bit of trade with the soldiers. Happiest of all, perhaps, is the priest in broad-brimmed hat, sound asleep, and oblivious for the nonce of the troubles around him, in endeavouring to alleviate which he has doubtless spent a toilsome day. Whoever may fail, he has done his duty, and may therefore take the repose he has earned till called to issue forth once more on a mission of mercy and consolation to the many who, amid battles and sieges, in an especial manner need the aid and comfort of religion. Altogether, a sad scene that, on a New-Year's Eve!

WAR SKETCHES.

Our war sketches this week are all concerned with what is of necessity the chief point of interest in the campaign—the siege of Paris, however important, relatively, may be the hostile movements in the provinces. Taking the Illustrations in the order in which they stand on our pages, we have first a German battery—of course mounted in earthworks—with its guns pointed towards the beleaguered city, but really playing upon the detached forts. Next we have Mont Valérien, the most formidable of all the Parisian outworks, and well does its importance warrant the careful watch kept upon it by the besiegers. The big guns of Valérien have already caused much anxiety in the German camp, and will no doubt play a prominent part yet ere the siege be over, if, indeed, General Famine does not do more to subdue the garrison than even the German artillery, deadly though it be, is able to effect.

Our two next Illustrations relate to the same event—the late grand sortie over the Marne, but they show affairs from different points of view. The first represents General Ducrot on the last position he seized on the plateau of Villiers-sur-Marne; and the second shows the Wurtemberg and Saxon troops under fire on the same occasion and in the vicinity of the same place. This sortie occurred, as will be remembered, on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1; and the operations, as seen from the besiegers' side, are thus described by a correspondent of the *Daily News* :—

"The reader must take to the map, and a fairly good map, if he would understand the events of the day (that is, Nov. 30). He will notice how the Marne, beginning at Courmay, runs first nearly due west to a little beyond Noisy-le-Grand, then makes a sweep

south, on the eastern bank of which sweep stands the village of Brie, and then forms a couple of loops, within the most northerly of which are the villages of St. Maur and Champigny, and, some distance to the east of the wide neck of the loop, the larger village of Villiers-sur-Marne. It was in and around the three villages of Brie, Villiers, and Champigny where was enacted the bloody drama. When the curtain fell on that drama the Saxons stood fast in Villiers, spite of all that the French troops and the French forts could do to dislodge them. Brie and Champigny, lying so close under the lee of Fort Nogent and a strongly-armed earthwork at Faisanderie, on the verge of the forest of Vincennes, overhanging St. Maur, remained in the hands of the French, for whatever good they were. What this advantage represented was simply this—that Brie gave them a footing, so to speak, on the Saxon mainland, while Champigny formed the key to the peninsula formed by the loop of the Marne.

"The object of next day (Dec. 1) for the Germans was to dislodge the French from these two villages—Brie and Champigny. To essay this task fell to the lot of Saxons, Wurtembergers, and a brigade of the 2nd Army Corps. The Saxons engaged consisted of the second division of the Royal Saxon Army (the 24th Division of the German host), under the command of General von Netirhoff, and composed of the 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, and 108th Regiments. This, taking each regiment at its full strength of three battalions, would represent fifteen battalions, or 12,000 men; but, as more than one battalion was naturally elsewhere engaged on forpost duty, it may be outside the exact figures to put down the Saxon force engaged at 10,000 men. Before the commencement of operations these splendid troops



NEW-YEAR'S EVE IN THE QUARTERS OF A GERMAN MAIN GUARD BEFORE PARIS.

occupied positions in Noisy, Champs, Courmay, Villiers, and the vicinity. The division of the Wurtembergers, the strength of which I cannot gauge, was commanded by General von Oberritz, a Prussian officer. Their positions were Ormesson, Chennevières, La Queue Noisau, and the vicinity. I have spoken of a brigade of the 2nd Army Corps as co-operating, but I have reason to believe that this contingent was neither strictly a brigade nor did it amount to a division, but was made up of contributions from various portions of the army corps in question. It was commanded by General von Fransecki, who, in virtue of seniority, had the nominal direction of all the operations, which were, however, supervised generally, as regarded the Saxons, by Prince George in person, whose heedlessness of danger must sorely have tried the nerves of his staff. The contingent from the 2nd Army Corps supported and co-operated with the Wurtembergers. The Saxons had no backing but their own resolute valour. In all, the German troops engaged and immediately supporting may have numbered about 22,000. The programme, as I have given it you, was complicated more or less unexpectedly by a counter-offensive operation projected by the French against Villiers, no doubt with intentions of penetrating further and of ultimately breaking through the cordon. Thus it fell out that, as the Germans were pressing on to the attempt of driving the French out of Brie and Champigny, Messieurs the French were simultaneously pouring out, with intent to take Villiers. When two bodies are going opposite ways in the same groove, it is a law of nature that a collision is the result. When the two bodies are armies, a fight is inevitable. Such events of that fight as came under my personal observation I shall endeavour to recount; but it is necessary first to give a brief description of the nature of the ground on which it took place. On the road to Noisy the south bank of the Marne is low, with a gradual rise, furrowed by inconsiderable rectangular depressions. As one reaches Noisy and looks southward he sees towards Brie, and across the neck of the loop, a broad flat, affording favourable

scope for military evolutions. From this plain towards Villiers there rises gradually a low but shaggy elevation, covered mostly with copsewood and vineyards. This elevation is not continuous to Villiers; there are occasional depressions, the debouchments of which cause the trivial hollows which occur on the road to Noisy. The general tendency is nevertheless upward; so that the table-land at the back of which lies Villiers is higher than any ground between it and the plain. The ridge, therefore, although hampered by hedges and brushwood, would form no bad standpoint for offering resistance to a force which, having deployed on the plain, should attempt to carry it, if it were not that it is swept by a direct fire from Fort Nogent at easy range and enfiladed at longer range, but still effectually, from the batteries on Mount Avron.

"When I crossed the river the hour already was considerably past nine. It seemed to me that Noisy was an eligible point from which to observe the operations, and accordingly I directed my way thither. I never wish to travel such a road again, nor to reach such a destination. The shells from Avron were coming very thick. Now they fell with a great splash into the Marne at my feet, starting the placid water as a stone starts a mirror; now there was a great bang on the road, and a belch of white smoke, or a dull thud on the frosty ground above. If the road was bad, Noisy itself was. It seemed as if the gunners in Avron, and Rosny, and Nogent were determined that not one stone of it should be left upon another. Now it was a shower of slates, as a shell crashed through a roof, refuting the solid rafters as if they had been laths. Now half the side of a house went bodily as a huge projectile struck and crunched it. In the shortness of the range, strange to say, there was one element of safety. The fire had to be direct, not plunging, and so massive were the walls, that, if one could only manage to get two or three of them between him and the forts, he occupied a position of precarious safety. Brie divided with Noisy the attentions of the French batteries, and it appears that Brie is

opener. I had heard that the 107th Regiment had made a dash into Brie out of Rosny early in the morning, and I wondered much how it fared with them. Hard enough, beyond doubt, but could they hold the place under such a ding-dong pelting? By ten o'clock the question was resolved. First, there came a drove of French prisoners, red-breeched regulars, up toward Noisy, along the slight shelter afforded by the use of the road. Then came Saxon soldiers, more prisoners, and finally the bulk of the 107th in very open order, and making the most of the few opportunities for cover. It was not a pleasant way to traverse. The forts fired heavily upon captors and captured alike, and more than one Frenchman fell slain by missiles hurled from French weapons. As the struggling column came up I learned that the 107th, in its rapid rush in the morning, had surprised the occupants of Brie; some were asleep, others were composedly drinking their coffee. There was but trifling resistance, and nearly 500 prisoners had been taken, including eight officers. The reason for the relinquishment of Brie on the part of the 107th was not far to seek. The terrible and persistent fire from the forts rendered it utterly untenable. It would have been folly—sheer quixotry—to remain in a place teeming with bursting shells. No good could have been achieved by holding it under such conditions. The troops, compelled, that they might escape annihilation, to concentrate their attention solely on cover, could not possibly have acted in any way on the offensive. As this contingency must have been the sole purpose of the occupancy, its impracticability simply nullified the position in a strategic sense. In a physical sense the shells were rapidly nullifying the occupants.

"The prisoners looked sturdy fellows, and anything but ill-fed. Their heart was good, too, if one might judge from passing expressions. A sergeant bade me "bon jour" as he went by, and told me cheerily that if anyone indulged the anticipation of the speedy capitulation of Paris, he was extremely out in his reckoning. Food was plentiful, he said with a laugh, and the programme was sorties every day in every direction. I believe it was

this laughing philosopher who afterwards gave up a proclamation of General Ducrot, dated the 28th ult., and setting forth that he did not mean to re-enter Paris alive. I dare swear he will not do so if he should chance to fall into the hands of the Germans. A drum-head court-martial and a volley from a firing party will assuredly be his fate, and I, for one, say serve him right. There was found also, I learn, on one of the prisoners, a proclamation emanating from General Trochu, that commander with 'plan on the brain,' announcing that the time had now come for making great sorties, since the German, or as he calls it, the Prussian, line had been greatly weakened (perhaps by the fall of Metz), and that his plan was to peg away at sorties till he had cut his way through. The prisoners were escorted back to Chelles, where, at a late period of the day, I saw them penned in the yard of the Mairie.

"As the procession from Brie had finished filing through Noisy an ominous sight met my eye in another direction as I peered through a loophole I had contrived. There, on the gradual slope of the farther bank of the Marne, under the wing of Fort Nogent, and extending right and left along the line of the Chaumont railway, were dense columns of French infantry. How they came there I know not, it was as if the spectacle had sprung up by magic. Now they stood fast, closing up as the fronts of the battalions halted; then there was a slow movement forward, till the head of the column dipped out of sight between the village of Nogent and the river. Then there seemed a final halt, and the dense masses stood there, the bayonets glittering in the sun as if the men who carried them had come out to be spectators of the effects of that shell fire which was cutting the air above their heads. But little by little there was a gradual trickling off, as it appeared, down to the bright of the river between Nogent and Brie. Was there a bridge there? There was the railway bridge, a lofty viaduct, but there was a gap in one of its arches that rendered it useless. Presently, on the plain to the south of Brie, there became visible a knot of red breeches, that grew denser and denser every moment. Simultaneously the whole sprang into life. From the farm buildings about Tremblay, from St. Maur and Joinville, there poured out vast bodies of French troops, deploying at the double. The line seemed to extend right athwart the neck of the loop. What happened to Champigny I know not from personal observation; but I have been informed that the Wurtembergers, after some desperate fighting, had driven the French out of it, not long after eight o'clock, to be in their turn subjected to a violent attack and partial expulsion by the right of the formation, to which I have just referred. The trailleurs dashed into the thickets lining the foot of the rise, and scrambled up through the winebergs. The troops behind them followed in serried columns. Whence had they come? They had crossed during the night, and occupied the loop. Their bridges must have been between Joinville and Nogent, and the notification of Brie enabled the utilisation, at the later hour, of yet another bridge, somewhere between Brie and the railway viaduct.

"Had there been nothing else to do on the part of the Saxons but to repulse an assault on Villiers, directed solely and straightly against it, the task would have been comparatively simple and not very bloody, notwithstanding the artillery fire. But the French advance, threatening in its deployment, as it did, to sweep right on, overlapping Villiers, up the space between that village and Noisy, and so to get through upon Champs, called for other tactics. Villiers could only serve as a position on which to lean the Saxon left. It became necessary to meet the French in the open. From behind Villiers the several regiments came out to the right on to the brow and under the shell fire. As the French troops came up the gentle acclivity, the guns of the forts continued to play without interruption. So narrow was the margin that I question much whether a shell or two did not find its billet in the French ranks. I stood by the 108th Regiment as it quitted the position in which it had found some shelter. A couple of young Lieutenants gaily shook hands with a hussar aide-de-camp, who had just ridden up with an order, as they passed him to go out into the battle. On went the regiments in their dense columns of companies, the shells now crashing into the ranks, now exploding in the intervals. Line was formed, the rear files pelting up at the double, and in a twinkling less than fifty yards separated the combatant lines. Then came a volley, then a venomous file-firing, and the French broke and gave ground. It was only to take to the next dip, to let the guns of the fort go to work again. The Saxons had perforce to find what cover they might. When the 108th Regiment came back—it had not been gone twenty minutes—thirty-five officers out of forty-five had gone down. Neither of the blithe Lieutenants was to the fore. And now came a lull in the musketry fire, just as a few minutes before there had been a lull in the cannon fire. The Saxons could not get their artillery into action with advantage. The ground itself was unfavourable, while the fire from the forts must, in the nature of things, have speedily silenced the field-guns. Therefore, this great advantage was lost to them—an advantage only to be appreciated by those who have seen German artillery in action.

"What I have been writing of took place before noon. After a little the artillery fire from the forts slackened considerably, and the French infantry made no demonstration. On the German left, however, about Champigny, it was evident that hard fighting was going on. About one the French made another advance, having, as I believed, received considerable reinforcements. The Saxon infantry confronted them on the challenge, with the old result. But a different policy was this time adopted. It was plain the only escape from the terrible thunderbolts lay in getting to close quarters with the French infantry, unless, indeed, a retrograde movement was to be made, and that was not to be thought of. So, when the French fell back, the Saxons followed on, as if they wanted to settle the question with the bayonet-point. It was the old motto, 'Vorwärts! immer vorwärts!' But the 'vorwärts' was very slow. What happened for the next hour I could only guess by the constant crackling of the small-arms. The forts confined themselves, seemingly, for the most part to firing into and over Champigny and Villiers. But at length the French were visible slowly and stubbornly falling back across the north side of the neck, the Saxons pushing them hard, the French ever and anon rallying.

"On this portion of the plain south of Brie there was a prolonged struggle. I understand the Saxons were striving to get at and cut the obnoxious pontoon bridge; but this was an impossibility, when Nogent went to work again with the terrible accuracy of which the short range admitted. The combatants parted about three o'clock, both sides falling back. The fort fire continued some little time longer."

BUST OF THE EARL OF DERBY.—A finely-executed bust of the late Earl of Derby has just been unveiled at Guildhall. It is the work of Mr. Noble, and gives an admirable likeness of the eminent statesman, though not, perhaps, in his later years. It is placed in a corridor near the Aldermen's chamber, immediately beneath the portrait of General Sir W. F. Williams of Kars, and close to the busts of the late Earl's great rival, Lord Palmerston, and of Lord Canning, the first Viceroy of India. It has cost the Corporation £250, and was ordered about a year since by the City Lands Committee, to whom it was referred to consider in what way the Common Council could best show their high admiration of the abilities and character of the deceased peer. A bust of Lord Brougham will likewise be unveiled in a short time.

A WELL-HUSBANDED BEQUEST.—The *British Medical Journal* announces the near completion of negotiations for the appropriation of the Brown bequest for the foundation of an Institute for Comparative Pathology, in which the diseases of animals will be studied in their relation to those of man, under the charge of accomplished experts. In the course of the eighteen years that the Brown legacy of £15,000 has accumulated it has rolled up an actual capital of £35,000. Dr. Quain recently offered personally to present £2000 for the purchase of a site. Mr. Cunliffe, the well-known banker, has since assumed this charge, and has vested in the hands of Dr. Sharpey and Dr. Quain, as trustees, the sum necessary for the purchase of a site. This has been selected, and within no distant period we shall have in London an institution, with an income of about £1000 a year, where the diseases of animals will be treated and studied.

MUSIC.

Up to the time at which we write, pessimists have been wholly wrong about the Italian Opera Buffa. There were croakers in plenty who did not believe in a limited liability management; or who, arguing from the ignominious failure of a similar enterprise at the same theatre not long ago, were convinced that the Lyceum would be shut in a week after its opening. These cheerful people for once made a mistake. The new enterprise is managed fairly well, and receives an amount of support able, if continued, to ensure it long life. There is every reason for hope of such a result, in order that a stupid theory may be exploded which limits opera to a few months in the year at exorbitant prices. Metropolitan amateurs want, and ere long they will have, the lyric drama available all the year round, as well as made popular by the abolition of those fancy charges which are the result of fancy salaries paid to fashionable singers. Several new artists have appeared at the Lyceum since our last notice, more than one of whom promises to do well. Mdlle. Colombo, for example, is a young soprano of great ability; and in Mdlle. Bedetti, the directors have a contralto of rare vocal attainments. The former made her debut in "L'Elisir d'Amore," replacing Mdlle. Calisto, the latter first challenging notice as Rosina in "Il Barbiere." Both ladies were successful, and had efficient support from a company which is rapidly improving in general efficiency. Beyond the production of Rossini's comic masterpiece, on Saturday last, nothing new has been attempted. To-night, however, witnesses the first performance of Signor Bottesini's "Ali Baba," an opera written expressly for the Lyceum directors, and one upon which great hopes are built. There is reason to believe those hopes well established, seeing that the composer is not less a good musician than a good contrabassist. In fact, had Signor Bottesini used his pen more and his bow less, the permanent advantage to art might have been material.

The Christmas holidays of the Monday Popular Concerts ended on Monday last, and a great crowd flocked to St. James's Hall with more alacrity than is generally shown at the finish of a vacation. A varied programme and some unfamiliar performers gave zest to the gathering, which augured well for the latter and more important half of the season. The concerted pieces were Schumann's quintet in E flat for piano and strings, and Mozart's quartet in G for strings only; both works being well known to amateurs as entitled to high distinction in their widely separate styles. A better performance of the quintet was desirable, though it is possible that the co-operation of two strangers—Madame Szarvady (Mdlle. Claus) and Signor Sivori—weakened the ensemble by reason of the sympathy arising from long association being wanting. Mozart's work had greater justice done to it, and met with unanimous approval. The solos were Beethoven's "Moonlight" sonata, played in moderate style by Madame Szarvady; and the same composer's violin romance in F, a fine rendering of which by Signor Sivori led to an encore. Herr Stockhausen once more appeared as vocalist, and had to repeat Handel's "Tyrannic Love" ("Susannah"), which, as well as some songs by Schubert, he gave in a careful and finished manner.

The second Ballad Concert took place in St. James's Hall on Wednesday evening, and proved an immense success, although Mr. Sims Reeves did not appear according to announcement. Miss Edith Wynne, Madame Patey, Miss Elton, Miss Smythe, Mr. Vernon Rigby, and Mr. Santley were the vocalists; Mr. J. H. Cowen being the pianist, and Mr. Fielding conducting the body of glee-singers. What each did and how everything was done there is no need to tell. Enough that five or six new songs by Claribel, Mrs. Phillips's "Louisa Gray," &c., were introduced, and obtained much applause. The old acquaintances, however, carried off greater honours than their upstart rivals, and more encores were insisted upon than we care to enumerate. An audience in better spirits or better pleased not even Mr. Boosey himself could desire.

THE EX-EMPEROR AND ESPIONAGE.

Among the Imperial papers lately published in Paris is a correspondence between the Emperor's private secretary and a captain of gendarmerie. An old soldier of twenty years' standing, who went through several campaigns and was wounded in the Crimea, and who for distinguished services had received the cross of the Legion of Honour, Captain Bouyn, of the Aurillac gendarmerie, went to Paris in January, 1887, to solicit an audience of the Emperor under the following circumstances. He, in common with all other officers of gendarmerie in France, had received orders to "inquire and report to Paris how many Legitimists, Orléanists, Republicans, and Socialists there were in his district, to keep his eye upon all such persons, and to observe what they said and did, where they went, and with whom they associated. Captain Bouyn desired to submit to the Emperor that such work was beneath the dignity of a military officer, and, moreover, manifestly in contradiction with statute expressly enacting that the gendarmerie was "to be employed in no occult" mission. In a respectful letter to the Emperor this Captain complained that without his knowledge his subordinates had been employed to canvass for and to employ "all possible means" to ensure the election of a candidate for the Corps Législatif who was disliked in the district. He desired to remind the Emperor that the proper task of the gendarmes was to protect honest people and to render itself dreaded only by malefactors. He would be ashamed of himself if, when received in society on a social footing, he were to make notes of what he heard, and act as a spy. He was the son of an officer of high rank of the First Empire, had been decorated by Napoleon III. in person; and he did hope that his Majesty would disapprove the order exacting from him degrading service. The stern answer he received from the Emperor's secretary, dated, "Palace of the Tuileries, Jan. 22, 1887," was to the effect that the most elementary rule of military hierarchy was that every officer should execute the orders he received from his superiors without question, comment, or perverse interpretation. He was quite wrong to characterise as "occult," instructions which were only "confidential," and the Emperor, so far from granting him an audience, desired him to understand that he was highly displeased with him. This displeasure subsequently found expression in the dismissal of the presumptuous captain. The anecdote shows that the Emperor personally expected his officers to do the dirtiest of all possible work.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—At about seven o'clock on Wednesday evening the down-train on the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway ran into a goods-train at Retford. Several of the passengers were severely shaken, but none, it is believed, seriously injured. A mistake on the part of a pointsman is supposed to have caused the accident.

DURING the recent severe frost a considerable number of birds took shelter in the bell-chamber of St. Paul's Church, Chancery, in Cornwall. The sexton, with one or two assistants, made an onslaught on the refugees one evening, and secured a bag of ninety-four starlings and one sparrow.

A COAL-PIT ON FIRE FOR ONE HUNDRED YEARS.—One of the most curious phenomena in connection with coal-mining is exhibited at the Bank Colliery, near Rothbarton, the property of Earl Fitzwilliam. This pit caught fire one hundred years ago; and all the efforts of the workpeople at the time and subsequently have been quite ineffectual to extinguish it. A short time ago it was ascertained that the flames were approaching the bottom of the shaft, and it was then resolved, if possible, to stay their progress, so that they might not extend to other parts of the workings. At length the superintendent of the collieries, Mr. T. Cooper, conceived the idea of building a wall to shut in the fire; and, in order to ascertain the best site for this wall, several of the officials crept on their hands and knees, through the dense stifling smoke, as far as possible into the workings. Their efforts were successful, and a wall is now completed nearly 1000 yards in length, and varying from nine inches to five feet in thickness. At distances varying from thirty to fifty yards, metal pipes have been inserted in this wall, which are securely plugged at the end, so that at any time, by removing the plugs, the state of the air on the side of the fire, and even the position of the fire itself, can be ascertained. So intense is the heat arising from this fire that people possessing gardens above the colliery declare that the growth of plants is materially affected, and they are enabled to obtain two and three crops every year.

FINE ARTS.

INSTITUTE OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.

THE present Winter Exhibition of this excellent association is, as usual, highly interesting, although it possesses no special features to distinguish it from those of previous seasons. Mr. James Fahey, to whom the arrangements are largely intrusted, brings both skill and experience to the work he undertakes, and the result is that the collections of sketches and studies are well placed, and remarkably illustrative of the school of painters especially represented by the institution. In an earlier notice than the recent pressure on our space would permit, we should have given some details of the principal part of the works named in the catalogue. As it is, we need do no more than indicate some of the most attractive pictures of those artists whose names have come to be identified with the institution. Ample enough, the collection begins with Mr. V. Bromley, whose "Mischief" (1) is a good example of that gentleman's style. The figure of the girl who is listening at the tapestry screen to the conversation in an adjoining room is admirably drawn, and the expression of the face is full of suggestive illustration of the title of the picture. "A Minstrel" (29) is another of those semi-humorous works for which Mr. Bromley is distinguished. Among genre and figure subjects we must direct attention to Mr. C. Green's "Your Humble Servant" (222), a truculent-looking gentleman of the past age, sitting in an old-fashioned room, where he has just concluded a letter with the inappropriate words after which the picture is named. This is an excellent and finely-finished work, displaying the high artistic qualities which are sometimes neglected in subjects with humorous meaning. A picture of a Commissary of the French Republic (58), with the simple title, "1795," is one of Mr. J. D. Linton's numerous contributions to the gallery. Another which should attract pleasant notice is his "Sir Roger de Coverley" (94); and "A Minstrel" (237) is very fine in colour, the red dress of the man being effective, in combination with some bold tints, admirably disposed. In "The Last Game of Cricket" (166) Mr. Hine sends a charming combination of figures and landscape. The coming up of the edge of the dark sky and the moon shining on the mists are finely rendered, and the last golden glow of day which gleams in the foreground, where the players yet linger while they can see the ball, is very beautiful.

Mr. G. C. Kilburne's two pictures, "Primrose Time" (31) and "Consecrated Ground" (124), will attract attention no less because of their skilful handling than for the sentiment which is embodied in them. The first represents a scene of woodland and water in that early spring which yet feels the chill breath of winter. The trees are only just touched with the budding promise of greenery, the skies are somewhat cold and threatening; the hope of the year lies in the wealth of primroses which are scattered on the rim of the flooded pool, and along that rim goes a dainty little maiden who has gathered a sweet posy of the flowers at her feet. "Consecrated Ground," on the other hand, is mournful enough. Two children look into a newly-made grave—the church, the country churchyard, and the entire scene being full of sorrowful suggestion. Both these pictures will secure notice, for they are just such works as ordinary visitors can appreciate, while their artistic qualities commend them to the attention of those who are fastidious about execution and workmanship. Among the large number of landscapes, we may call attention to "Eskdale—Autumn" (9), a large and finely-executed picture by Mr. Sutcliffe, with wonderful dark and misty sky effect; while "A Sketch in Summer Time" (139), by the same artist, is a glorious glimpse of woodland under the overhanging boughs of oaks, whose solid forms give fresher hues to the sward in the foreground. Mr. Sutcliffe also sends another good picture, of a different scene, under the title of "Sandsend—Evening" (181). Passing to No. 14, "The Mid-day Rest," by Mr. W. Small, we notice in it remarkable skill in the colour and exquisite detail of the herbage and turf where the tired vagrant reposes at the foot of the gnarled old tree. Two pictures by the same gentleman, "Autumn" (208) and "Dry Weather" (214), are admirable. The former is finely handled and full of light, while the horse and the girl who leads it are remarkable for the action that is always so pleasing an accessory to landscape. "Dry Weather" is also notable for the touch of humour which distinguishes the capital drawing of the thirsty geese which peer so ruefully into the old dilapidated well. The overshadowing chestnut-trees and the farmyard accessories are all finely in keeping, and the result is a charming little picture. In "A Summer Night" (19), Mr. Hine gives us a fine seascape from a sandy beach, full of fine colour and tender, delicate, handling. In No. 245, a winter scene with the moon rising over the sands, the dark distance of sky and waves being still in shadow, he has produced a work very grand in character; while in "Willington Hill, Sussex" (251), a greater effect of sky and moonlight is achieved by the introduction of the exquisite gradations of colour in a placid sky where the light sobers down to the grey horizon. Mr. E. H. Fahey, only lately a member of the institution, exhibits some remarkably graceful and facile sketches from *Pulborough*, one of them, under the title of "A Wet Day," being especially admirable in execution. "Penberth, Cornwall" (36), by Mr. C. Green, is among the most noticeable of the landscapes; but his two sketches of the Drawing-Room and the Staircase at Cotehele are both more attractive, and will please connoisseurs and visitors alike.

Mr. H. Johnson's "Stonehenge" (55) is a well-executed piece of work; and "Kynance Cove" (75), by Mr. Megford, is a fine bit of seascape, the light and mist in which are well managed; and the same may be said of his "Tantallon Castle—Sunset" (169), both fine powerful works, executed by a masterly hand. Mr. J. D. Linton sends some beautiful little drawings—"A Study of Fishing-Boats" (150), "Entrance to an Old Bowling-Green, Warwick" (319), and "Fortune-Telling" (334)—admirable for their exquisite finish and colour. Among the sea-pieces Mr. T. Collier's pictures are, perhaps, the most truthful, and with the greatest freedom and sense of motion. His "Studland Bay, Dorset" (165), is fine in its reality, its rush, and breezy atmosphere; and "Near Wareham, Dorset," is also a good and clever picture. A sweet scene—that of "The Lovers' Walk, Matlock" (81)—is one of the subjects chosen by Mr. E. Hargitt this season. His "Beech-Trees, Millersdale, Derbyshire" (116), is also admirable in its rendering of wood and water, with bright and pleasant effect. "The Valley of the Thames from Culham Court" (118), by Mr. H. G. Pigeon, is another pleasant bit of work honestly and effectively executed; and from this we pass to Mr. M. M'Kewon's capital pictures of interiors of old, quaintly-furnished rooms, including "A Brown Study, Knoke" (243), "King Charles's Bedroom, Cotehele" (254), and "King James's Chamber, Hatfield House" (283). With a passing notice of Mr. J. W. Whimper's excellent picture, "Cocklers, Lancaster Sands," representing children dabbling, with bare feet, in the salt-pools left on the shore by the waves, we must conclude a rather late notice of one of the exhibitions to which people have learnt to look forward each season with the certainty of being greatly interested.

MARRIAGE OF BANKERS' CLERKS.—At the half-yearly meeting of the proprietors of the Union Bank, on Wednesday, the chairman, Mr. P. Northall Laurie, governor of the bank, in moving the adoption of the report, alluded to the regulation recently issued by the directors with a view of preventing imprudent marriages amongst their junior clerks before they were in receipt of such a salary as would enable them to support the position into which they might thus enter. He thought the shareholders would give them credit as men of business and married men, connected, as they had been, with the bank for thirty years, for not having come to that resolution without having had severe and painful experience of its necessity. The Union Bank was not the only establishment in the City in which such a regulation prevailed, and the salaries and chances of promotion were such as to enable all the junior clerks to attain a position in which they could afford to maintain a family after five or six years' service in the bank. What had been done had been in the interests of the clerks themselves; and he felt sure that any father who sent his son as a junior into the bank would be thankful for the step the directors had taken.

SMALLPOX.

A CIRCULAR has been issued by the Medical Department of the Privy Council, in which the attention of the local authorities is directed to section 28 of the Vaccination Act of 1867. By this they are empowered to appoint special officers to institute inquiries, and take proceedings necessary to check the further spread of smallpox in those districts where it has become epidemic. The circular is accompanied by the following memorandum on the steps specially requisite to be taken by boards of guardians under the Vaccination Act, 1867, in towns in which smallpox is epidemic:—

"I. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO VACCINATION OFFICERS."

"1. At times when smallpox is epidemic, the officer appointed by the guardians to see that the provisions of the Vaccination Act are duly observed should give his first and special attention to the particular localities in which the infection exists.

"2. In order that, for this purpose, he may have the earliest possible information of the occurrence of cases of the disease, the guardians should instruct their district medical officers to give immediate notice of every fresh case of smallpox which comes under their treatment, and should also instruct the registrars of deaths to forward to him notice of each death registered from smallpox on the day on which it is registered. For convenience of transmitting such notices, each district medical officer and registrar should be supplied with forms duly stamped for post, or with post-cards adapted for the purpose. Privatemedical practitioners should also be invited to give similar information.

"3. In each locality in which the infection exists, the vaccination officer should proceed with the utmost possible dispatch to personally ascertain what children are unprotected by vaccination, and should use his utmost exertions to obtain the prompt vaccination of all such children. Generally speaking, he must be guided by his own judgment and by his knowledge of the locality as to the manner in which his inquiries can best be made; but in infected courts or alleys, as well as in certain kinds of streets, inquiries from house to house, and, in tenemented houses, from room to room, will be indispensable.

"4. Where any child is found illegally unvaccinated (between the ages of three months and fourteen years) the vaccination officer should give a notice requiring the vaccination to be done within a specified time. This time, when there is smallpox in the house, or other special risk of exposure to the contagion, should not exceed twenty-four hours; but in other cases, some days, not exceeding a week, may be allowed. A second visit from the vaccination officer will, of course, afterwards be necessary in order to see that his notice has been complied with. With regard to unvaccinated children not yet three months old, who may be in infected localities, the vaccination officer should advise the parents not to incur the unnecessary risk of waiting for the child to complete that age before having its vaccination performed; for vaccination is performed with perfect safety on children even immediately after birth. In no house in which there is smallpox ought a child, however young, on any account to remain unvaccinated, unless, on medical examination, it be pronounced unfit to be vaccinated.

"5. The vaccination officer should make it well known in infected localities that the public vaccinator is at liberty to revaccinate grown-up and young persons (not under twelve years of age) who have not before been successfully re-vaccinated, and who apply to him for that purpose; and that persons not vaccinated since childhood, who are likely to be exposed to contagion, ought to be re-vaccinated without delay. Above all, this is necessary for persons whose original marks of vaccination are imperfect.

"6. All notices given and representations made as above should be accompanied with information of the provision for public vaccination in the district. If any case requiring prompt vaccination by the public vaccinator cannot, in the judgment of the vaccination officer, properly be taken to the station or residence of the public vaccinator, the vaccination officer should give to the public vaccinator immediate information of the case.

"7. Besides the above-described special proceedings in infected localities, every means should be taken, generally throughout the union or parish, to ensure that the infantine vaccination is as complete as possible. The vaccination officer should make frequent examination of the registrars' vaccination-books, and should deal with each default which he finds as speedily as possible after it has arisen.

"II. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PUBLIC VACCINATION OF CASES OF EMERGENCY."

"1. Besides the ordinary attendance for the performance of vaccination at the appointed station in each vaccination district, special attendances should, during the continuance of the epidemic, be given at a fixed hour daily for the vaccination of cases of emergency.

"2. Under the regulations of the Privy Council, guardians where smallpox is prevailing are at liberty, without special authorisation, to order such exceptional attendances. But as regards the place where the special daily attendances should be given, if, in the case of any district where the vaccinator's surgery or residence is not a vaccination station, the guardians are of opinion that the ordinary vaccination station would be less convenient for the special purpose than such surgery or residence would be, they should at once apply to the Privy Council to sanction, for a limited time, the exceptional use of the surgery or residence.

"3. The special provision for daily attendance is designed only to meet cases of emergency, and all other cases should be reserved for the usual vaccinating day. It is on the latter regular attendance at the station that reliance must be placed, not only to maintain the usual performance of primary vaccination from arm to arm, but also to furnish the supply of lymph required for cases of re-vaccination and for use in the special attendances; and former epidemics of smallpox have shown that to attempt at such times an indiscriminate daily performance of vaccination leads only to difficulties and disadvantages. Adherence to systematic arrangements

(with exception only for special cases) is, indeed, of the utmost consequence at such periods—first, because it is then of supreme importance that each primary vaccination should be done under conditions which scarcely admit of failure; and, secondly, because without system it is not possible properly to meet the large demands for re-vaccination which at such times are sure to arise, and which, unless under very peculiar circumstances, must always be reserved for the weekly vaccinating day.

"III.—ISOLATION OF THE SICK, AND DISINFECTION."

"The isolation of the sick, and the disinfection of infected houses and things, are very important means of checking the spread of smallpox; and, in order that such measures may be enforced, the Sanitary Act, 1866, besides imposing penalties on the exposure of infected persons, the letting of infected houses, the sale, &c., of infected things, and other acts similarly dangerous to the public health, gives, in sections 22-24, 26-28, very important powers to nuisance authorities. As the nuisance authority is in most towns a separate body from the board of guardians, it is not proposed in this memorandum to give any advice as to the way in which these powers can best be exercised; but, so far as the destitute classes are concerned, boards of guardians, as poor-law authorities, have through their officers opportunities of securing disinfection and the isolation of the sick, of which full use should be made during an epidemic of smallpox."

The Registrar-General remarks that although the deaths from smallpox were less numerous by 31 than they were in the previous seven days, and fewer by 3 than in the week ending Dec. 24, the fatality of the disease was last week as great as in any week of the epidemic of 1863. There is relatively little or no diminution in the mortality of the east districts, where 35 deaths from smallpox were registered last week, 12 of them being returned from the district of Bethnal-green, and 15 from Shoreditch.

THE SINKING OF COLLIERIES IN THE SEINE.

MR. ALDERMAN CANDLISH, M.P., and Mr. R. M. Hudson, borough magistrates, have held a sitting in Sunderland, and have taken the depositions of the masters of the collier vessels belonging to that town which were sunk by the Prussians in the Seine upon Dec. 21 last. The statements already published were those of a portion of the crews of the vessels which were sunk. But as the present inquiry was instituted to enable the masters of the vessels to get their case fully before the Government, through Mr. Candlish, M.P., with a view to compensation for the losses sustained, the precise facts of the seizure of the vessels, as deposed to by the masters, cannot but be of interest, as they put a stop to all the sensational stories about the Prussians trampling on the British flag, firing on the vessels, &c., which were set afloat at the time. The vessels sunk by the Prussians were the *Jane Tindell*, commanded by Mr. Thomas Adamson; the *McLaren*, commanded by Spoor Hodgson (both belonging to Mr. John Tindell); and the *Alice*, commanded by Thomas Embleton, the property of Thomas Minnikin. Captain Embleton's statement was that he arrived at Duclair on the 19th ult., when he was hailed by the Prussians and let go his anchor. He had his English ensign flying at the time. He did not see any of the Prussian authorities that day. On the following day he, with the other captains, saw the chief military authority, and asked for permission to proceed down the river. They were told they could not do so, but had better go back to Rouen, and received a permit to do so. When they were leaving, the officer said to them in English, "Take my advice; go back to Rouen, for this is not a safe place for you." They returned to their vessels and found the *Ann* sunk, and the *Sally* Gale being towed out to be scuttled. The *Alice* was prevented leaving for Rouen on account of the darkness, and on the next day (21st) nine or ten Prussians went on board and took full possession of the ship. The commander of the soldiers, in the best way he could, gave him to understand that he was going to sink the ship, saying, "I am going to *couler* (sink) your ship; the General will come and give you a paper for the money." When the officer took possession he told him the vessel belonged to a neutral country, and showed him the flag; but it was of no use. They towed her away and sunk her. He afterwards saw one of the military authorities on shore, who asked him the price of his ship. He received a paper, properly signed and sealed, in German, certifying that the officer had "requisitioned" the *Alice*, the value of which was estimated at £2400. He did not ask for money. He got part of his clothes. A note was sent to the British Vice-Consul (Mr. Herring) at Rouen, who went on board the Prussian steam-tug to protest against the sinking of the ships. After the ships were sunk the crews got leave to go to Rouen (a distance of thirty miles), there being no shelter at Duclair. They went part of the way in their boats, which were afterwards broken up by the Prussians. They were afterwards sent on to London. The Prussians did not behave badly to them or rob them, and his ship was not fired at. Captain Adamson, of the *Jane Tindell*, said he left Rouen on the 17th ult., with a properly stamped permit to England. After being once overhauled by the Prussians, the vessel arrived at La Fontaine on the 19th. There was a strong breeze, and he anchored to prevent the ship leaving the channel. His anchor was on the ground when the Prussians shot twice over the ship; one shot went over the bows, and the ship swinging at the time, the second went between the masts and into the river. He considered they fired across his bows, which was the usual signal to bring up; they did not fire at him. No one boarded him, and three quarters of an hour afterwards, in consequence of the wind countering the tide, he dropped down the river without any hindrance. He arrived at Duclair on the 18th, and took in ballast until mid-day of the 20th, when, although he had a permit, he went and asked the authorities to permit him to proceed to England. The official wrote something in German on his permit, and gave him to understand that he could not go to England, but must proceed to Rouen, as it was not safe to re-

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main at Duclair, the French gun-boats being expected. In returning to his ship he found the schooner *Ann* was sunk. On the 21st, about three p.m., the Prussians took possession of the ship, and the soldiers cut the moorings, hove up the anchor, and jumped into the hold with augurs to scuttle her. All this was done without asking any questions of him. He was afterwards asked to haul down his flag, but declined. The ship was then sunk. The Vice-Consul got him an agreement for a payment of £1800, the value of his ship, from the Prussians. Captain Hodgson, of the *McLaren*, related a similar story. The Consul obtained him permission to go to the extent of the Prussian lines to take in his ballast. He left Rouen on the 14th, and, having been twice overhauled by the Prussians, arrived at Duclair on the 19th, when he began to take in his ballast. He detailed the interview with the official who gave them the pass to go to Rouen, when they were prevented doing so by the state of the tide. On the 21st, about a score of Prussians went on board, and called upon him to haul his flag down; but he would not, and to the best of his belief the ship went down with it flying. The Consul protested against the proceedings, and obtained him an assessment for £2000 for the ship. He never saw the flag trampled on. This concluded the inquiry. Mr. Candlish promised that he would render them every assistance in bringing their claims before Government.

TERRIBLE COLLIERIES EXPLOSION NEAR SHEFFIELD.

LOSS OF TWENTY-SIX LIVES.

ABOUT midnight on Tuesday a lamentably destructive explosion took place at the Renshaw Park Colliery belonging to Messrs. J. and G. Wells. For many years the Derbyshire coal-field has enjoyed an enviable immunity from disastrous explosions, although in South Yorkshire they had been both frequent and frightfully destructive of life and property. Renshaw Park is situated about eight miles south of Sheffield, and the Messrs. Wells's colliery is within half a mile of the Eekington station of the Midland Railway. About 400 hands are employed in the colliery in the day time, but in the night the average number is about seventy. Messrs. Wells are the owners of two pits, being about 500 yards from each other, and the shafts are connected. The pit in which the explosion took place is known as the No. 1, and the other as the No. 2. The explosion took place in a working at the south end of No. 1 pit, where there were about twenty-two men engaged in preparing for the next day's work. In this working no less than twenty dead bodies were found, the only survivors being two boys named Goodwin and Webster, who were found at the bottom of the shaft in a state of unconsciousness by four men, who had escaped by being in a dip at the south end of the workings in which the explosion occurred. By the aid of proper restoratives the two boys so far recovered as to admit of their removal to their homes. Unfortunately, the effect of the explosion was not entirely confined to the pit in which it originated; but the deadly fire-damp, rushing through the communications to the No. 2, added six victims to the list, besides injuring numbers who were afterwards recovered in a state of insensibility. Immediately on the alarm being given, Dr. Jones and Dr. Hogg, accompanied by Mr. J. Wells, one of the proprietors, hurried to the collieries, and at once descended No. 2 shaft, where the choke-damp was least dense, and the chances of saving life were greatest. Their efforts were happily successful, as they found a number of men who had been rendered insensible, and would have soon perished had not timely assistance been at hand. As soon as possible they had them sent to the surface, where restoratives were administered; and when the sufferers were sufficiently recovered they were moved to their homes in carts. The injured men having been properly cared for, attention was directed to the removal of the dead; and as each body was recovered, it was placed in the stable on the pit bank. One old man, named John Balsover, is still missing, and is supposed to be in No. 1 pit; he took his lamp when the night shift went down, and his hat was found in the mine during the removal of the bodies. With few exceptions, the features of the dead were very slightly injured, and the work of identification was consequently easy. One among them has been fearfully disfigured, his jaw and one side of his head having been nearly blown away; others were dreadfully scorched, but most of their faces wore the calm appearance of sleep. Two of the men taken out dead were found on their hands and knees near to the bottom of the shaft, and it is supposed that, when only partially overcome with suffocation, they had endeavoured to make their escape. One of them had a lamp in his hand and the other a cap. At the time of the explosion some of the men are supposed to have been in the act of getting supper, as several were found with food by their side. Though the explosion took place at midnight, the news of the calamity was soon spread in the villages around, and the wildest excitement prevailed. During the whole of Wednesday great numbers of workmen assembled in the neighbourhood of the collieries, anxious to learn the extent of the disaster and to gather any particulars respecting the sufferers. Of the twenty-six killed no fewer than eighteen are married, and many of them will be lamented by numerous families.



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BANKRUPTCY.—G. F. JEFFRIES, Praed street, grocer.—M. A. SPOONER, Mile End-road—W. CLARKSON, jun., Pudding stone merchant—H. CROCKER, Torquay, innkeeper—T. O. CURTIS, Cheltenham, leather-seller—G. GAIKHOU, Birmingham, brewer—J. B. JOSE, South Shields, ship-chandler—J. MOSE, Ely, miller—H. J. MOULTON, Birmingham, picture-frame manufacturer—W. SMITH, Clayton-le-Moors, grocer.
SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—D. HUME, Markinch, grocer—W. RICHIE, Dalkeith, spirit merchant—M. COOK, Paisley, shawl manufacturer—T. DUFF, Perth, commission agent—A. HUTTON and D. D. SYME, Stirling, writers.

TUESDAY, JAN. 10.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—W. LE PATOUREL, Brighton-le-Sands.
BANKRUPTCY.—G. E. BULMER, Acorn Wharf, Rotherhithe, clerk to a timber merchant—A. COMBES, Tyndale-place, Islington, builder—T. BENDESON, Farnborough-row, silk merchant—W. WIGGINS, Nag's Head-court, City, ironed victualler—H. BECKWITH, Liverpool, merchant—R. DA WSON, Cheltenham, solicitor—W. SUFFIELD, York, coal and potato dealer—T. T. SYKES, Slidewate, woollen manufacturer.
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